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Rises are reprehensible, says Scott

Soaring cost of civil justice under attack

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to increase costs by up to 150 per cent for millions of people who pursue civil disputes in the courts were denounced as "thoroughly objectionable and reprehensible" yesterday by Sir Richard Scott, the head of the country's civil justice system.

The increases, which come into force tomorrow, are part of controversial Government plans to make civil justice pay for itself.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, has announced hefty fee rises for all civil court actions — from divorce to debt recovery, rents to suing noisy neighbours — so that he can recoup the £310 million cost of civil justice, including judges' salaries and court buildings.

The cost of a divorce petition, for example, rises from £80 to £150, compared with £40 18 months ago. The cost of lodging trial papers and asking for a date in the county courts — which in the 1980s was free — doubles from £50 last year to £100.

Consumer and legal groups also gave warning that the rises — coupled with the scrapping of fee exemptions for those on income support — would hit the poorest most, and that many low income households would be unable to pursue their rights.

The plans, the last stage of a four-year policy to make civil justice self-financing, will reap an extra £50 million in court fees and bring the total fee income raised from court users to £310 million — virtually the full cost of running civil courts.

Sir Richard, who as head of the High Court Chancery division is one of the most senior judges in England and Wales, said he had "no doubt" the Lord Chancellor had "no alternative but to increase court fees because of Treasury constraints on his budget".

But there was a danger that people would be deterred from using the courts. "Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible," he said.



Scott: civil justice is bulwark of civilised state

ble without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive. People often had no choice about whether or not they were involved in a civil dispute.

"The policy fails to recognise that the civil justice system, like the criminal justice system, the bulwark of a civilised state and the maintenance of order within that state. People have to use the civil courts. They can't engage in self-help in a way which would lead to chaos."

Sir Richard, who is in charge of implementing reforms to the civil justice system proposed by Lord Woolf, added that people with a boundary dispute could not just "go out and pull up their fence and say that's where it should be — they would be subjected to injunctions and have to go to court. Nor can they go and demand rents with threats."

He added that the policy was of concern because it "devalued" the civil justice system and raised questions over how the Government would treat other matters such as the Woolf reforms.

The fee increases, which also require new fees for certain court work as well as scrapping previous fee exemptions for those who are not well-off, also came under fire from the Legal Action Group and the Advice Services.

Vicki Chapman, the policy officer of the Legal Action Group, criticised the scrapping of the exemption from court fees for those on income support. Fees could be limited in hardship cases, but only in small claims and undefended divorce cases, she said.

The new fees would hit debtors particularly hard. "For the first time they will face substantial costs if they want to apply to the court to vary payment of a debt or have a judgment set aside. Someone paying three or four debts who loses his job and as a result wants to arrange for lower payments to debtors would face court fees of £30 or £40."

The new fees will now cover 92 per cent of the total cost of running the civil courts, including accommodation and judges' salaries, except for the small amount provided by the state in the shape of fee reductions for those who are not well-off. She said the decision to make litigants bear the burden of judges' salaries and accommodation costs had never been debated by Parliament.

Sir Richard also attacked the notion of judges' salaries coming out of fees paid by litigants. It was reminiscent of the last century when the judge "put out his hand and was paid by the litigant." "Judges are part of the constitutional framework of the state and I don't see any justification for their salaries to be paid for in this way."

Mark Sefton, the policy officer of the county court advisers' group of the Advice Services Alliance, said the changes would hit thousands of the poorest users extremely hard. Debtors could even lose their homes due to being unable to pay the £10 fee needed to return to court to vary an order against them or have a possession order suspended.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said the increases brought civil court fee income "more in line with the costs of the administration of justice".



Mr Major, wearing a tribal turban presented to him, and his wife Norma, trying a dupatta, are greeted at Nandi Khotal yesterday

Majors given view of the Great Game

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
 POLITICAL EDITOR
 IN THE KHYBER PASS

IT WAS, according to the historian Sir John Kaye, a tragedy whose "complete awfulness was unexampled in the history of the world". John Major yesterday stood at Mithin Point in the Khyber Pass on Pakistan's northwest frontier looking into Afghanistan and the scene of one of Britain's biggest military failures: the retreat from Kabul in 1842.

It was 155 years to the day since Dr William Brydon of the Army Medical Corps rode his horse into the safety of the British garrison at Jalalabad, the only survivor of the 16,500-strong force of British and Indian troops and camp followers who perished through starvation, the cold and at the hands of Afghan tribesmen as they tried to get back to India.

Two and a half years earlier 10,000 Crown troops and 6,000 Indians had marched into Kabul virtually unopposed as the British took action which they hoped could settle the Great Game — the struggle between Tsarist Russia and Britain for mastery in

central Asia, once and for all. They feared the Afghans were getting too close to the Russians and wanted to kill the threat of another invasion through the pass, the gateway to the subcontinent.

In vain did the elderly Duke of Wellington warn that the problems would start when the military success ended. Britain made the mistake of sending many of the troops back to India, leaving a much smaller force with families and other civilians in a cantonment outside Kabul. In November 1841 a mob stormed the home of the British Resident, Sir Alexander Burnes, and killed him.

A deal guaranteeing the occupiers a safe retreat back to the Indian border was never honoured. They were murdered by bandits in vast numbers. By the ninth day only six had survived. Five of them were slaughtered, leaving only Dr Brydon, his sword broken in his last fight, to reach the sanctuary of the garrison.

Yesterday the preoccupation of Mr Major, another great survivor, was not history but a modern and equally chilling war — the battle against the



Lone survivor: Dr Brydon riding back

drug barons who use the pass and others like it to bring in their lethal stocks of opium from the Afghan poppy fields.

The task faced by the anti-narcotics forces, to which Britain contributes training and other assistance, including Customs and Excise officers, appears as uphill as that facing those ill-fated soldiers and families of another era.

Pakistan supplies 70 per cent of the heroin sold in Europe; the drug economy is calculated at £21 billion a year. Up here in this barren, unfriendly terrain the enforcement agencies are fighting a war they know they can never totally win. Drug manufac-

ture and smuggling is part of the life in the tribal areas of the northwest frontier.

Mr Major, who was briefed on the history of the pass by the chief of the Frontier Corps,

which includes the renowned Khyber Rifles, wanted to know how much of their time was spent on the drugs battle. Major-General Fazal Ghafor told him that he was consumed by it.

Mr Major listened open-mouthed as he told how he had deployed 5,000 of his men in a drugs operation last year which resulted in 17 laboratories, where the opium is turned into heroin, being razed and six tonnes of opium-based products seized. The enforcement men admit that as quickly as those premises are destroyed others will be quickly erected. Of all the bad men in the Khyber perhaps the worst was Haji Ayub

Continued on page 2, col 4

Muslims blamed for letter-bomb

Islamic extremists were believed to be behind a letter-bomb attack which injured two security guards at a Saudi-owned Arab newspaper's base in Kensington.

Two similar devices were sent to the paper's office in the UN building in New York. The paper, *al-Hayat*, has backed the Middle East peace process. Page 4

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Millennium show is scaled down

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ORGANISERS yesterday proposed new, scaled-down plans for the troubled Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

In a second attempt to secure £200 million in National Lottery funds, Millennium Central, organiser of the project, reduced the scale of its plans and topped £120 million off its £700 million budget. The revised plans show that only ten million people and not 13 million are expected to visit the site.

Several attractions have been axed, including two of the 12 planned pavilions, an auditorium, a pier and covered walkways. The giant dome, which is the bid's centrepiece, will remain.

The revised business plan, which also relies on a commitment to underwrite the scheme, was studied by Virginia Bottomley and other members of the Millennium Commission yesterday. They provisionally approved it and privately agreed that £200

million of National Lottery cash should be provided.

But the money will be forthcoming only if Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, gives Labour's support at a meeting with Jennifer Page, the commission's chief executive, tomorrow.

Millennium Central was forced to submit a revised budget when the Millennium Commission and Jack Cunningham both expressed alarm at the spiralling £700 million cost of the giant exhibition. The revised cost of the scheme is £580 million, against an estimated income of £520 million. The shortfall of £60 million is expected to be met by sponsorship, which Millennium Central hopes will materialise when the project is given the go-ahead and more detailed plans for the content of the exhibition are revealed.

Transsexual payout, page 2



Max Clifford in studio row

Pandemonium broke out in a BBC television studio when Max Clifford, the publicist, lunged at one of his arch-enemies, Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet. Annabel Heseltine, daughter of the deputy Prime Minister, was accidentally pushed back into her seat. Derek Hatton pulled Mr Clifford away as Robert Kilroy-Silk, the presenter, tried to restore calm. Page 3

Live lobsters plunge stores into hot water

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

COMING soon to a supermarket near you: live lobster, fresh from the tank, ready to be popped into a paper bag and taken home to be boiled for supper.

But beware — lobsters may not be the only red-faced creatures capable of administering a nasty nip at the checkout. As stores plan the DIY dinners — popular on the Continent and in America — angry animal welfare activists are preparing for a fight.

In the perennial quest for new luxury foods the more upmarket supermarkets are studying plans to keep live lobsters in store tanks. Waitrose, one supermarket understood to be considering the move, would not comment last night.

But New England Lobsters International Ltd, one of the biggest Canadian lobster importers to Britain, agreed moves were afoot at selected stores. "It's a discussion we have been having with them

for a while," said Fred Stroyan, the managing director. "The British are a bit squeamish but the lobsters are perfectly happy in the tanks." Animal welfare organisations were quick to denounce the move yesterday. "We would urge supermarkets not to do this and customers not to buy live lobsters," said Peter Stevenson, political and legal director of Compassion in World Farming. "It is not humane to throw them into a pot of boiling water."

Handling tip: Lobsters sold live normally have their claws bound with rubber bands. To ensure the creature is not troublesome at home it is advised to put it upside down on its head and claws and stroke the back of its head until it falls asleep. Many chefs believe suffering can be avoided if lobsters are killed with a spike through the head immediately before boiling.

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Unlikely, but is there another, wilder, side to Sir George?

BETTY BOOTHROYD has the most marvellous tan. Vying only with that of Harry Greenway (C, Ealing N) in its nut-brown splendour (though with Mr Greenway the nut quality is more than skin-deep) the tan defies all assumptions.

Surely duty must be Madam Speaker to her Commons apartment throughout the holiday season; and Greenway is a famously hard-working constituency MP. Throughout the winter chill two day-long shifts of UVA-rich sunlight must have lit the

Speaker's House and Ealing. Observing MPs on their first day back, this sketchwriter found it hard to concentrate on serious matters. The topic was Transport, John Bowis, the junior minister, brought important news on Responsible Cycling — but something else troubled this sketch. Fellow minister John Watts had the latest on the Northfleet bypass — but still I was distracted.

How shall we put this? At a new year party, I was told by a usually reliable source that there was a Conservative MP

who has had his navel pierced and wears a discreet gold ring under his bespoke cotton shirt, just above the belt line. With so much salacious gossip in the air about other Tory backbenchers, it has proved hard to banish this allegation from one's thoughts.

Yesterday it was impossible. As Secretary of State Sir George Young expatiated with his habitual gloomy rationality on the Marine Accident Investigation Branch and the approaches to Milford Haven Harbour,

one even wondered whether it could be him. Could there be another, wilder, side to Sir George? Highly unlikely.

Next up was Labour's Clive Soley (Hammer Smith), earnest, anxious yesterday about the risks involved in his own hobby, cycling. "When I cycle," he told the ever-helpful Mr Bowis, "I feel like a by-election waiting to

happen." Bowis, a thinking-man's Mr Blobby, was reassuring. As he explained his new "Cycle-safe" campaign I scanned the area above his belt for the slightest bump — but in vain.

John Marshall (C, Hendon S) rose to his feet. For all the years he has been in Parliament, the amazingly self-confident Mr Marshall has

retained the knack of engendering anew, with each new dawn, the expectation that he might be about to say something interesting. But he never does. Red braces — perhaps. A navel ring? Never.

But yesterday Mr Marshall got about as interesting as he can get, striking panic into the hearts of all who use the London Underground's Northern Line, when he announced to startled MPs that he had driven one of the new trains. We heard the sound of six hundred season tickets being shredded. A man who

displays a near-pathological inability to stop at the end of his Question can hardly be trusted to stop at the end of the Northern Line, or intermediate stations.

There followed an odd little skirmish about the privatisation of London Underground, the Transport Secretary and his Labour Shadow circling each other warily, shadow-boxing. Sir George was not quite saying the Tories would privatise, and his Opposition Shadow, Andrew Smith, was not quite saying Labour would fight it

tooth and nail. Glenda Jackson, the junior spokesman, ploughed in and called privatisation "an abyss", spoiling the careful minut.

When Questions were over, Miss Boothroyd informed MPs that in future the Commons "Crown Portcullis" emblem was not to be used in circumstances which demeaned "the dignity of the House". No tattoos then, we mused. My brain still in turmoil about the navel ring, I thought I saw a Tory backbencher slip his hand nervously over his left buttock.

Lottery grant to sex change group vexes Bottomley

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LOTTERY grant to a charity working with transsexuals and transvestites, triggered fresh clashes between Virginia Bottomley and the National Lottery Charities Board yesterday.

Timothy Hornsby, the board's chief executive, said that the £33,700 award to the Gender Trust, which provides counselling for transsexuals, was "exactly the sort of grant the Board should be giving".

"The Trust reaches out to people who either feel trapped in the wrong body and want surgical intervention, or those who don't want to go under the surgeon's knife but want to dress up. It is the sort of thing you can have a snigger about, but this is part of the reality of the darker corners of life out there," Mr Hornsby said.

But the Heritage Secretary is understood to be "extremely upset". She has previously warned the lottery grant-giving bodies that the public would stop buying tickets if they continued to give money to controversial minority groups. "It is for the Charities Board to explain and account for its action in areas which may not attract widespread public endorsement," she said.

Toby Jessel, Conservative MP for Twickenham and a member of the National Heritage Select Committee, said: "My own preference is that causes like the Gender Trust should not be financed with National Lottery money because they are rather controversial and would be better funded by the NHS."

Valerie Riches, director of Family & Youth Concern, which campaigns for traditional family values, said the

board appeared to have its priorities twisted. "I wouldn't have thought that the majority of the population would be very happy... there are so many bigger problems in society."

A spokeswoman for the Gender Trust said that an estimated 65,000 people in the UK had problems living with their gender and help on the NHS was very limited. "We are not dealing with bad or mad people, but people who are, for the most part very lonely and very sad."

"It is not to do with sex, but with identity. It is very important for any human being that they know who they are."

The grant is to help the trust, which says it has helped 50,000 people since it was set up in 1990, to employ its first paid staff member and set up an office. The trust is run by volunteers and is funded by a membership subscription.

Until now the trust has been run purely by volunteers and a board of 12 trustees. Its patrons include Professor Richard Green, Professor Steven Hirsch and Dr Donald Montgomery from the Charing Cross Hospital gender identity clinic.

Last month a Charities Board grant of £75,000 to an advice group for male prostitutes, Men Who Enjoy Sex With Men Action Committee, was condemned by Graham Riddick, Tory MP for Colne Valley, as "unbelievable".

The latest round of grants comprises 65 awards worth £9.6 million. They include £161,112 to the National Association for Premenstrual Syndrome to help run a public awareness campaign.



Tony Blair, the Labour leader, talking to Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, at the House of Commons yesterday. John Prescott, Mr Blair's deputy, who also met Mr Patten, leaves the colony and Peking today

Clarke adviser had child-porn videos

By ADRIAN LEE

AN ADVISER to Kenneth Clarke at the Treasury was yesterday ordered to undergo counselling after child pornography was discovered at his home. Peter Hayden, 42, a civil servant, whose role involved briefing the Chancellor and other ministers, was told that only his remorse and previous good character saved him from jail.

He has been suspended from his post in the Treasury's International Finance Directorate since the police raid. Brent magistrates in north London were told that three of the 110 videos seized after a tip-off in May last year featured children. Some of those involved were aged 13. Sentencing Hayden, of Kilburn, north London, to 18

months' probation, including the counselling course, Neil McKinnick, the stipendiary magistrate, said: "Possession of indecent videos of children under 16 is conduct right thinking members of the public find repulsive and nauseating and this behaviour will not be tolerated. People who buy videos of a paedophilic nature from sex shops contribute to the indirect exploitation of children involved."

Hayden admitted three counts of possessing indecent photographs of children under the age of 16. But Angus Hamilton, for Hayden, said his client had no idea the videos contained scenes of under-age sex. The videos had been bought from sex shops in Soho.

Labour zero option for computer crisis

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

LABOUR is to pledge more help for business and public services to cope with the millennium computer crisis being caused by the date change in 2000.

Many computer systems cannot recognise the new century because they rely on the last two digits to signify the date. When the millennium arrives, they will theoretically assume it is the year 1900. Among the initiatives being developed by Derek Foster, Shadow Public Services Minister, are crack squads of private troubleshooters to help companies with difficulties, and a new telephone hotline offering speedy advice.

It is another attempt by Labour to portray itself as the party most committed to technological change and fit to lead the country into the next century. Tony Blair has already pledged a Labour Government to work with British Telecom and the cable companies to link up every school, college and library to the Internet, to develop the University for Industry, and to develop the concept of computer libraries.

Mr Foster is to outline the millennium strategy today at a technology seminar organised by the Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union. He will not promise huge amounts of new money, but says that Labour will use existing cash more coherently, and strengthen the role of the advisory agency Taskforce 2000.

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Spice Girls head list of award nominations

The Spice Girls look set to sweep the board at this year's Brit Awards but they will share the limelight with a past success, the Bee Gees. The chart-topping newcomers have been nominated for Best British Group, Best British Newcomer, Best British Single and Best Video by a British Artist. The Bee Gees, three of whose hits have recently been the subject of cover versions, will receive the award for Outstanding Contribution to British Music.

The Britpop rivals Oasis and Blur were not among the contenders announced yesterday because they did not produce an album in time for the nominations. The comedian Ben Elton will present the awards, to be held at London's Earls Court on February 24.

Plea for missing Zoe

The mother and stepfather of missing schoolgirl Zoe Evans, 9, made an emotional appeal for her safe return. As the search intensified in the garrison town of Warminster, Wiltshire for Zoe, who has been missing for two days, her mother Paula Evans, 28, broke down as she begged her daughter to come home and said she had bought her the dog she had always wanted. Superintendent Colin Dixon, who is leading the search for Zoe, said that police were "very concerned".

Peer's wife over the limit

The wife of Conservative peer Lord Wedgwood escaped a month's jail sentence yesterday when he paid her £600 fine after she spent a night in a police cell for driving her Jaguar into Eaton Square, Belgravia, while almost three times the drink-drive limit. Lady Wedgwood was banned from driving for 18 months. Police spotted her driving the wrong way along Euston Street, Belgravia. She turned left into Eaton Square, passing on the wrong side of bollards, and was stopped in nearby Bressenden Place.

Hayes to meet party officers

The Conservative MP Jerry Hayes will tonight meet officers of his constituency association in Harlow to discuss newspaper allegations that he had an illegal relationship with a homosexual teenager. Paul Stone, Mr Hayes's former research assistant, now 24, sold the allegations about the friendship to the *News of the World*. Mr Hayes, 43, married with two children, has denied any sexual relationship with Mr Stone and has instituted legal proceedings against the newspaper.

Rendezvous murder theory

Police believe that Patricia Coulton, the wife of a royal protection officer who was stabbed to death in her car, had arranged a clandestine rendezvous with her murderer. Mrs Coulton, 52, was found in the grounds of a nursing home at Ascot, Berkshire, where she worked as a care assistant. Detective Superintendent Peter Hanks spent much of yesterday with her husband, Michael Coulton, 52, at his home in Woking, Surrey, but police are believed to have effectively ruled him out of their inquiries.

Policeman supplied Ecstasy

A policeman, 32, yesterday admitted supplying Ecstasy. At Gloucester Crown Court, PC Steven Hunt of Maple Close, Hardwicke, Glos, admitted two charges of supplying MDMA — the abbreviated chemical name of the drug — to Simon Mercer on October 20, 1995. He was remanded on bail for a pre-sentence report to be prepared and his case was adjourned for three to four weeks. He denied a further charge of dishonestly handling a stolen video recorder belonging to Radio Rentals.

Agency head is bound over

The head of a multimillion-pound Government-backed enterprise agency was yesterday bound over to keep the peace after a dispute in the street with a woman magistrate. Sefin Harris, 43, of Gloucester, manager of the Barton and Tredworth Enterprise Centre, agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months after being found not guilty by Cheltenham magistrates of using threatening words and behaviour to Carol Francis on September 6. She had denied the charge.

Policeman's grave attacked

The grave of a policeman shot dead by the IRA last summer has been vandalised for the second time in a week. Police in the Irish Republic said yesterday that the headstone on the grave of Jerry McCabe, 52, in Mount St Oliver cemetery in Limerick was smashed and pushed over on Saturday night. Gardaí said they were keeping an open mind on the motive for the attack, although they thought it unlikely to be the work of the IRA. The headstone was dislodged in a similar attack the previous weekend.

Australian wins poetry prize

The Australian Les Murray has won the 1996 T. S. Eliot Prize for the year's best collection of new poetry. Mr Murray, who was born in 1938, studied at Sydney University and became a full-time poet in 1971. His volume, *Subhuman Redneck Poems*, was selected for the £5,000 prize, which was presented last night by Eliot's widow Valerie. The poet Andrew Motion, the chairman of the judges, said: "He is a poet of exceptional range, energy and ambition."

Mayhew resists calls to exclude fringe loyalists

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SIR PATRICK MAYHEW resisted pressure yesterday to expel the fringe loyalist parties from the multi-party talks at Stormont after recent bomb attacks by loyalist terrorists.

As the talks resumed after the Christmas recess, the Northern Ireland Secretary said he did not believe that the Combined Loyalist Military Command had breached its ceasefire. His refusal to blame the loyalist command was mocked by Bob McCartney, the United Kingdom Unionist MP for North Down.

Speaking outside the talks venue, he said: "Do you think it was the tooth fairy that placed the bombs?" Referring

to so-called "punishment beatings", he added: "Do you think it was a band of tooth fairies that is breaking legs and crucifying people throughout Northern Ireland?"

Sir Patrick's praise for the Loyalist leadership followed calls from the Democratic Unionists and the UKUP for the parties with links to the terrorists to be expelled from the talks after two car bomb attacks over Christmas.

The terrorist Ulster Defence Association is widely believed to have planted the bombs under the cars of republican leaders in Belfast and Londonderry, although no group has claimed responsibility. Ronnie

Flanagan, the Chief Constable of the RUC, yesterday blamed "loyalist extremists" for planting the bombs, although he stopped short of naming any terrorist organisation.

Sir Patrick condemned the bomb attacks, but praised the loyalist command for maintaining its ceasefire. Ministers hope that the failure to claim responsibility for the bombs means that the operations were not sanctioned by the loyalist leadership.

Gary McMichael, the leader of the Ulster Democratic Party, the UDA's political wing, insisted yesterday that the ceasefire was still in place.

Major watches drugs war

Continued from page 1

a chieftain of the Afridi tribe, who has been called the biggest drug baron in Pakistan. Mr Major was driven past Haji Ayub's fortress, which is about the size of Windsor Castle. He mysteriously gave himself up in Dubai in 1995 and is in prison in the United States.

Mr Major was planning a walkabout yesterday at the pass's high point of Landi Khotal, where the Khyber Rifles are also based. The tribesmen had been asked to hand in the guns they all carry for the day. Thousands of them had come in from the hills and lined the village as Mr Major drove through.

He was not to stop there: it was a security man's nightmare. No one could be sure who had guns. His staff were

told of how the tribesmen give their sons Kalashnikov rifles as a present when they reach the age of 13.

But Mr Major did visit Landi Khotal market centre. Mr Major and Norma were treated to a dazzling display by the young martial dancers of the Khyber Rifles. It was a colourful but bellicose experience as the dancers, who double up as waiters in the mess, fired off their Belgian FN rifles into the air and waved Scimitars. The Prime Minister was following in the path of some famous users of the pass — Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, Darius of Persia. Churchill served in the area as a young cavalry officer: even Margaret Thatcher went there in 1981. As he flew back by helicopter to Islamabad on the penul-

time day of his subcontinent tour Mr Major must have reflected on the awesome task that faces the anti-drugs agencies near a country where poppy growing is the lifeblood for so many and at a frontier which is so lawless that a total of 100,000 soldiers try to police it.

After the military disaster a century and a half ago the Great Game was soon revived when the British went back to Kabul and was never really played out for another 70 years. The drugs will almost certainly go on for just as long. Imran Khan, former Test cricketer and contender for the prime ministership of Pakistan, failed to turn up for a reception hosted by Mr and Mrs Major at the British High Commission in Islamabad last night.

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'The last time I felt that shaken I was in a war zone' says journalist caught in the middle

Publicist creates stir by lunging at MP on chatshow

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

MAX CLIFFORD, the publicist who has pledged a personal campaign to bring down the Government, lunged at a Tory MP and swore at him during a row on a television chatshow yesterday.

Chaos broke out at the Kilroy studios moments before the programme was supposed to go on air after Mr Clifford became embroiled in an argument with Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North.

Mr Clifford, a public relations consultant to many tabloid celebrities, was defending his latest client, Paul Stone, who claims to have had an affair with Jerry Hayes, the Tory MP for Harlow, when a teenager and under the then age of homosexual consent.

Members of the audience said that Mr Clifford strode out of the guest room ten minutes before the programme and glared at Mr Gale, who is chairman of the backbench media committee, and takes a strong line on intrusion into privacy.

When Mr Gale cracked a joke, Mr Clifford allegedly spat at him and tried to shove the MP, who was sitting opposite him. As Mr Clifford

lunged for Mr Gale, his microphone got caught and instead he caught Annabel Heseltine, the journalist and daughter of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Derek Hatton, the former leader of Liverpool City Council, was over to calm Mr Clifford and said: "If you want to scrap, scrap with me. You know you don't." Boris Johnson, the journalist and prospective Tory candidate, also tried to calm Mr Clifford, along with William Garnett, a libel lawyer who is the brother of Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary. Margaret Hodge, the Labour MP for Barking, got water knocked over her in the mêlée.

Mr Clifford was clearly agitated at being faced with a largely hostile audience made up of MPs, journalists and other public relations advisers who later accused him of being a "parasite" and a "liar" in the debate about sleaze.

Mr Gale said that Mr Clifford's behaviour had been disgraceful. "He hurled towards me and stuck his nose about three millimetres from mine. He started muttering. He was out to get me," he said.

"I was really taken back by what happened this morning. But I will not be taking this any further — I am kind to dumb animals. Mr Clifford is two sandwiches short of a picnic."

Mr Clifford said he crossed the studio to confront Mr Gale after the MP stared at him, was "muttering words and blowing kisses in his direction." He denied that he had tried to hit Mr Gale. "I've told him before I think he's utterly repulsive. There's no love lost between us. But I did not try to punch him. Gale was muttering at me. I pulled my mike off and stood in front of him eyeball to eyeball challenging to say something or shut up."

But Ms Hodge said: "They started to have fistfuffs. It took half a dozen people to restrain him. I think he completely flipped, his whole attitude was incredibly aggressive."



Max Clifford, left; Annabel Heseltine, who got caught in the studio mêlée; and Roger Gale, who said the behaviour was disgraceful

happened or whose arm or body engaged with her," a spokesman said. "She seemed to be nursing an injury to her chest or arm."

Miss Heseltine described Mr Clifford's behaviour as an unprovoked and "uncontrolled frenzy." "I got knocked, because there were three or four men in a scuffle around me," she said. "Nobody tried to hit me."

"I didn't realise quite how shocked I was by the incident until later. I was breathing very fast. I was shaking, my hands were shaking. Quite frankly, the last time that happened I was in a war zone. I remember feeling a little bit scared, wondering what would happen during the show, would there be someone there to hold him back if it happened again?"

Ms Heseltine, 33, added: "I feel that he is — I don't want to

say a scumbag — but he is a very unpleasant man, a very unpleasant man. What he does is extremely exploitative. He corrupts situations entirely to suit himself."

For the rest of the show Mr Clifford was obviously seething as he sparred with Mr Gale, who has been a persistent critic of the PR man.

Mr Clifford prides himself on being a caring family man who is devoted to his severely

disabled daughter and hates the Government because it does not "look after the long-term ill and disadvantaged". He is a regular church-goer.

His former clients are less clean-cut. They include O.J. Simpson, cleared of murdering his wife and her friend; and Divine Brown, the prostitute at the centre of the Hugh Grant scandal. Another of his proteges is Mandy Allwood, the woman who was pregnant with octuplets, who came under a barrage of abuse for selling her story to the tabloids.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, the former Labour MP and host, only had six minutes to defuse the situation before the programme went on air. Even half way through the programme, Mr Clifford was still calling Mr Gale "a prat".

Mr Kilroy-Silk, who has had convicted criminals and their victims on the same programme, said it had been one of the most "hair-raising" programmes. "We've done about 1,500 live shows and always expect the unexpected. But this was a very unusual one," he said.

Kathy Bailey, of Bradford, who was in the audience, said: "I was talking to my son Jason

and the next thing I knew Max Clifford had ripped off his microphone and stormed towards Roger Gale. Derek Hatton held him back. My heart was pounding and I thought the show was going to be cancelled. I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

Later during the programme Mr James Coughman, Conservative MP for Gillingham, said: "You are prepared to destroy a man and his family on the basis of allegations from someone who alleges he had some sort of relationship with Mr Hayes. I find it absolutely despicable."

One of Mr Hayes's constituents also defended him saying: "Jerry Hayes does his job. What do you do for the people of Harlow, you're nothing but a parasite. Jerry Hayes is a good MP. Who elected you?"

Mr Clifford defended his job saying: "Politicians hide behind an image and it is extremely important to see what they really are. These people are making decisions affecting our daily lives. He is part of the party of family values. Maybe his wife doesn't want to know but I happen to think the British public have a right to know about these people in power."



Derek Hatton intervenes, left, after the scuffle that left Annabel Heseltine shocked when Roger Gale was confronted by Max Clifford, who wants to bring down the Tories



Harrods manageress convicted

By A Staff Reporter

A HARRODS manageress who helped to plunder more than £200,000 from the credit card accounts of wealthy customers was behind bars yesterday. Elizabeth John's betrayal of trust, which "horrified" the Knightsbridge store and prompted an in-depth security review, left one shopper with a £120,000 bill after only three months.

But Al Sharif Al Hussein never noticed all the itemised extras on his Gold Mastercard statements. Harrow Crown Court in north London was told it was not until police investigated the 26-month-long swindle that he learnt he had unwittingly paid for numerous illicit spending sprees.

John, 31, was convicted of one count of conspiracy to defraud between February 1993 and May 1995. She was remanded in custody for sentence on February 7.

Her brother, Koshi, 29, who admitted the charge, also had his bail withdrawn. He will be sentenced with her and for a counterfeit dollars swindle he was convicted of last year.

Drowning son pushed lifejacket to father

By LERISSE SMITH

A TEENAGER who drowned with his young brother when their boat overturned in the Bristol Channel refused a lifejacket, pushing it instead to his father.

Paul Cyster, 18, and his brother David, 10, were on their first angling trip with their father, Stephen, 43, and his friend Dave Sperring, 59, when they tried to anchor for a last half-hour's fishing before heading home on Sunday. The anchor snagged in submerged rocks and the rapidly rising tide, which has the second highest range in the world, tipped the boat over 100 yards from the shore, near Portishead pier.

David was in the cabin and may have been trapped but the other three swam to the surface. "I bobbed to the surface with Paul and his dad and there were two lifejackets floating there," Mr Sperring said.

"I instinctively grabbed one. Paul pushed the other lifejacket towards his dad and said he would swim to the shore. I tried to tell him he would never make it but we

just drifted apart. It was such a brave gesture. He is a hero. Steve kept saying 'He saved my life. He gave me the lifejacket.'"

Yesterday an air and sea rescue operation failed to find any trace of the boys. Their mother, Tracey, 33, from Sea Mills, Bristol, said: "It was their first fishing trip together. We are just praying for a miracle. There is hope but it is fading." She said her husband was a keen fisherman while David loved canoeing and sports, and Paul was "a lovely lad". The couple have three other children.

The two men were rescued by a passing boat after drifting for 30 minutes in the darkness. Mr Cyster was detained in hospital but Mr Sperring, a builder, was released after treatment for hypothermia.

Mr Sperring added: "Little David had been nagging his dad for weeks to go on his first fishing trip. He was so excited when he caught the only fish of the day."

He said there was not even time to cut the rope. "We didn't have our lifejackets on. It just

all happened so fast. I tried to grab little David's legs as the boat went over but he was stuck in the cabin and I couldn't free him," he said.

The two men kept blacking out in the cold water. "We were both on the way out. I was swearing at Steve, calling him every name under the sun to stop him losing consciousness. He was delirious. All I can surmise is that Paul tried to swim to shore which was about 100 metres away. If it had been in the summer and it had not been so cold, he might have made it."

Rescuers admitted yesterday any hopes of finding the two boys alive were slim. Helicopters, six lifeboats and local boats searched the area on Sunday and the hunt resumed at first light yesterday with a team scouring both shores and police divers trying to locate the wreck.

Coastguards said visibility was good but the cold water, around 4C, meant the boys would be unlikely to survive for more than three hours. They believed they were swept away by strong currents.

Rector stole from his parishioners

By A Staff Reporter

A RECTOR stole thousands of pounds paid by parishioners for weddings and funerals and made up heart-breaking stories about local children to get money from a church fund.

Oxford Crown Court was told yesterday that the Rev John Thompson also cheated an insurance company by claiming his 12th-century church, St Olave, in Fritwell, Oxfordshire, had been burgled, and stole money from a school of which he was a trustee.

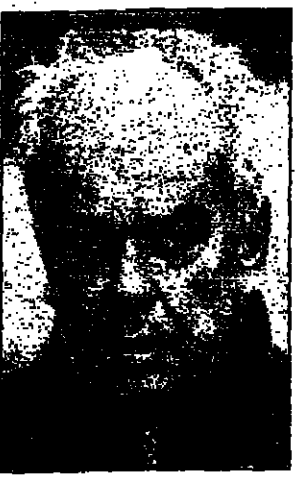
Peter Nightingale, for the prosecution, said that the Burchington Convalescent Fund paid out £2,000 over 15 months for holidays for children after Thompson sent it four bogus letters. They included one in which he told of a father who had died in a fall as he tried to rescue his

children while climbing in the Lake District. Another asked for money for two children who were seriously injured when a caravan plunged off a cliff in France, killing their father.

Mr Nightingale said that on each occasion the charity sent cheques to Thompson to help towards the cost of holidays for the children.

Mr Nightingale said: "This defendant was a successful, effective liar with a fertile imagination. None of these people were parishioners, relatives or even known to Mr Thompson. They were all completely fabricated. No one else had benefited."

The court was told that he cheated the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company into paying out £1,200 after claiming that burglars had broken into his



Thompson resigned from his parish

church. The "stolen" items were later found at his home. Thompson, 52 and a vicar for 20 years, had been the rector serving three parishes in east Oxfordshire — Fritwell, Souldern and Ardley with Fewcott — for ten years.

Thompson admitted four charges of obtaining property by deception and asked for two thefts, a charge of fraud involving the insurance company and an offence of attempting to obtain property by deception to be considered. He was ordered to do 100 hours community service, placed on probation for two years and ordered to pay back the £2,000 from the convalescent fund.

Jonathan Coode, for Thompson, said he was undergoing psychiatric help after a breakdown and that there was no substance to the claims that he was the only one to benefit. "There seems to be a witch hunt going on."

He has resigned from his parish but will hopefully not be defrocked. His working life is effectively over, which is the greatest punishment."

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Islamic extremists blamed after terror campaign spreads from America to Britain

Two wounded as letter bombers aim for London target

BY STEPHEN FARRELL AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

ISLAMIC extremists were last night believed to be behind a letter-bomb attack that injured two security guards at London-based moderate Arab newspaper. Two similar devices were sent to the paper's office in the United Nations building in New York.

The Saudi-owned *al-Hayat* has voiced support for the Middle East peace process and recently spoke out against extremism. Two weeks ago, its

Washington bureau received explosives hidden inside musical Christmas cards. Identical bombs were sent to the parole office of the US prison holding one of the Arab terrorists who carried out the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Last night Britain's anti-terrorist police were understood to be in contact with FBI officers investigating the American attacks. The Saudi ambassador to London, Dr

Ghazi Alghosabi, said: "Those who cannot face ideas resort to bombs. This is a criminal, cowardly act which illustrates the mentality of the perpetrators." *Al-Hayat*, a Arabic-language daily with 165,000 sales worldwide, is owned by the Saudi Prince Khalid Bin Sultan. More than 90 per cent of the 100 staff working at the Kensington Centre office in Hammersmith are Lebanese.

The editor, Jihad Khazen, said he believed the bombs were the same type as those received two weeks ago, which bore stamps and postmarks from Alexandria, Egypt. Security was tightened after the Washington attack, with a scanning machine installed in the basement post room.

One security guard, Barry Roche, 46, from Paddington, suffered serious injuries to the head and abdomen in yesterday's blast. Doctors at New Charing Cross Hospital last night feared that he might lose an eye. A second guard, Andy McKenzie, 35, from Wimbledon, suffered burst eardrums and shock but was released from hospital.

The Metropolitan Police anti-terrorist squad and bomb disposal units evacuated the building in Hammersmith

Centre of the news: a journalist from the newspaper *al-Hayat* talks to police after the bombing yesterday

Road shortly after the first blast at 9.15am. They sealed off roads and carried out controlled explosions on three suspicious packages before sending material to forensic laboratories for closer examination.

A Scotland Yard spokesman refused to confirm reports that the device contained Semtex, and that the guard escaped with his life only because the detonator exploded.

Mr Khazen said: "We don't know if the guard opened it or

what happened. It made a noise going through the machine, he carried it in his hands and it blew up."

Police were last night seeking links with the US attacks on January 3 in which *al-Hayat's* Washington bureau received four bombs, with a fifth discovered at the sorting bureau before it was delivered. All were in plain white envelopes measuring 5½ by 6½ ins. They were defused safely after the first was opened by the paper's Wash-

ington correspondent Dana Sandarust, who became suspicious after seeing the Egyptian stamps and called police when he noticed wiring and plastic explosives inside.

Three others were sent to the parole officer at Fort Leavenworth Federal Prison in Kansas, where Mohammed Salameh is serving a life sentence for the World Trade Centre bombing in which six people died and 1,000 were injured. The prison also holds the blind Egyptian cleric

Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, ringleader of a Middle Eastern group, who was sentenced a year ago for plotting to bomb buildings and tunnels in Manhattan and kidnap politicians.

Mr Khazen said: "We were the only Arab newspaper to interview all the people convicted of the World Trade Centre bombing, including Salameh. We have also spoken to Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman twice, and we have had absolutely no complaints from any of the groups."

A statement from the school said the investigation arose from complaints made by two parents concerning children other than their own. One parent had since removed her children, while the other had one child still at the school. "The children who were the focus of the inquiry are also still happily in the school and they and their parents have always been fully supportive of the care and attention the school provides."

Another parent, who declined to be named, said she was not satisfied and would be removing her daughter at the end of the school year.

Parent to stand by school sex allegation

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A MOTHER who made allegations of sexual impropriety against a senior teacher at Wells Cathedral School in Somerset stood by her account last night despite threats of legal action.

Two teachers were cleared last week after a three-month police inquiry. John Baxter, the headmaster, said yesterday that the allegations had been investigated thoroughly when they first came to light more than a year ago.

But Annie Caldwell-Bull, whose two daughters left the school in July, claimed she had seen one of the teachers cuddling a young girl and that her ten-year-old daughter Minty had also had her bottom pinched in horseplay with the same member of staff.

Mrs Caldwell-Bull had complained originally when her 12-year-old daughter, Candice, told her she could not concentrate on her piano practice because the teacher had another girl on his knee, kissing and cuddling him. "I expected to be thanked for bringing it to the school's attention but instead I got an aggressive response and now, even after the girls have left, the threat of legal action."

Mr Baxter said the school had received hundreds of expressions of support. "I am absolutely certain and totally confident of the good care and welfare of all the children in my school."

Mr Baxter said the school was still waiting for a full police report, but it had been assured that the allegations had "no substance".

A statement from the school said the investigation arose from complaints made by two parents concerning children other than their own. One parent had since removed her children, while the other had one child still at the school. "The children who were the focus of the inquiry are also still happily in the school and they and their parents have always been fully supportive of the care and attention the school provides."

Another parent, who declined to be named, said she was not satisfied and would be removing her daughter at the end of the school year.

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

LONDON has seen violence involving the complex politics of the Middle East since 1977, when a former Yemeni prime minister, his wife and a diplomat were shot dead.

Since then, nearly 30 people have been killed in attacks as political developments in the Middle East have been played out in the capital. A former prime minister of Libya was shot down in 1978. The London representative of the PLO was killed a few months later. In 1980, four gunmen and two hostages were killed in siege of the Iranian Embassy. In 1982 the Israeli ambassador to Britain was killed by a gunman. Two years later, WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot from inside the Libyan People's Bureau. In 1995, a group of Palestinians left car bombs outside the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity, and a Libyan dissident was stabbed to death.

The tolerant and cosmopolitan capital has attracted dissidents — and their persecutors. Attacks on newspapers and journalists are not new. In 1987, a Palestinian cartoonist was killed.

Hard-hitting and reliable daily refuses to be intimidated

THE SPATE of letter bombs sent to the offices of the Arabic-language daily *al-Hayat* in London, New York and Riyadh over the past two weeks suggests a co-ordinated terror campaign by Islamic radicals against the Arab world's leading newspaper.

Edited and published in London, the paper, owned by the Saudi Royal Family, is a natural target for Islamic fundamentalists and those who have opposed its strong line against terrorism and oppression.

Yesterday it emerged that an employee of the paper's office in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, also received a letter bomb on January 4. Alerted by the Egyptian stamps, he called the police, who discovered

that it contained explosives. The paper is owned by Prince Khalid bin Sultan, the nephew of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the commander of the Saudi forces during the Gulf War. His father is the country's powerful Defence Minister.

With a circulation of 165,000, *al-Hayat* is the successor to a long-standing Beirut newspaper forced out of the country during the Lebanese civil war. Still largely staffed by Lebanese, it is considered one of the most hard-hitting and reliable Arabic-language dailies, with correspondents in most of the Arab world. It publishes much news that is censored by local newspapers, and takes full advantage

The Arabic-language newspaper Al-Hayat, owned by the Saudi Royal Family, is a natural target for Islamic fundamentalists. Michael Binyon writes

of the press freedom and Arabic language news sources and outlets in London.

Edited by Jihad al-Khazen, the paper is transmitted by satellite to printing presses around the Arab world and is considered one of the most authoritative because of its relatively unbiased coverage. Mr al-Khazen frequently receives telephone threats from the Arab world and attempts by governments to prevent publication of embarrassing

news, but he says he will not be intimidated. "I hope and pray there will be no more attacks. We will not change. We will maintain our moderate position on Arab and international affairs," he said.

Terrorist experts pointed to Egyptian Islamic radicals as being the most likely perpetrators. Activists in Egypt have promised revenge for the imprisonment of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind Egyptian cleric described as the ring-leader

of the group sentenced a year ago for plotting to bomb buildings and tunnels in Manhattan and kidnap American politicians. Muhammad Salameh is serving a life sentence in America for his role in the plot.

Speculation also focused on groups that have waged political and terrorist campaigns against Saudi Arabia. Among these are the shadowy group responsible for the bombings in Riyadh and Dhahran last year that killed 25 people, including 19 American soldiers in the second blast. Islamist enemies of the House of Saud also include Osama bin Laden, a rich Saudi exile who has funded some of the most radical anti-Western terrorist groups and who is now believed to

be living in Afghanistan.

Dr Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi dissident exile in London who recently announced that he was bankrupt, said after the first Washington bombs that the list of suspects could not exclude Islamists, and cited their dislike of Mr al-Khazen in particular for his "insolence". He said the paper's offices in Cairo and London would be an obvious target.

Al-Hayat has been used by the radical Algeria Armed Islamic Group (GIA) to claim responsibility for terrorist bombings and assassinations. But suggestions that the letter bombs could be connected to the Algerian conflict were regarded as unlikely.

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Boy wins fight for home after hate campaign

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 11 won the legal right to be rehoused yesterday after the High Court was told that he and his family had been the victims of a hate campaign on the inner-city estate where they live.

The court was told that Simon Bradford had been constantly bullied and taunted on his way to school by neighbours on the estate because his mother was crippled by arthritis and epilepsy. Richard Gordon, QC, appearing for Simon, said the words "while trash" had been daubed on the front door of the family's two-bedroom, first-floor flat.

In his judgment, Mr Justice Kay described how the whole family faced a daily ordeal "of very considerable harassment" and Simon's mother had been mugged on three occasions. He said Simon's head teacher described him as "a sad little boy".

"The family has been harassed by abusive and hoax telephone calls," he said. "This campaign of hatred has culminated in attempted arson on their home and the daubing of phlegm and faeces over the door of their flat and their car."

In its landmark judgment the court ruled that the Tower Hamlets Council in east London had a legal duty to find a safer home for the boy, who had helped to look after his severely crippled mother since he was four. The case will set an important precedent for hundreds of other children in need or who are responsible for the care of older relatives.

The Bradfords first made an urgent application for a housing transfer in July 1995, but the council assessed that they had no points for medical priority so they were placed on the general housing list.

The court heard that Simon suffered from behavioural problems and had missed a large part of his schooling, partly because he had assisted his unemployed father Raymond, 46, in caring for his

mother and partly because of the harassment. The council told the family that their needs, including psychological ones, did not justify providing them with residential care and that the only type of accommodation they were entitled to was under the 1948 National Assistance Act.

Events of the summer of 1996, when the harassment suffered by the family escalated, "only served to underline how acute a problem it was".

The judge said that, as the case was coming to court, the council conceded that it did have powers under the Children Act to accommodate a child in need, but then argued that Simon had failed to meet the criteria which would qualify him for rehousing.

The council claimed the family's needs were being met through the housing department and they were being offered help in the home. The judge ruled that because the council had conceded it did have powers to house a child in need, the family were clearly entitled to an assessment of Simon's needs.

The judge said he believed the council had failed to carry out an assessment because those responsible "approached it with a fundamental misunderstanding of their powers in relation to rehousing under the Children Act."

Simon's solicitor Nicola Mackintosh said later: "This is an horrific story, but it is also an important case for the rights of children generally."

"It is of great relevance for children with disabled parents, or children who are in need themselves. There are many families in similar situations to Simon's."

However his local council said they had nowhere suitable to place the family and they will at present have to go on living in the flat where they have been harassed. Simon's mother, Anita, said: "As adults we can more easily stand the strain. But for Simon it has been unbearable."

Family blames beds crisis for woman's death

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

A WOMAN aged 69 died after a London hospital cancelled her heart bypass operation four times because of a lack of intensive care beds over the Christmas holiday.

The family of Queenie Harriid said yesterday that others would suffer a similar fate unless the Government provided the health service with more resources.

Amid growing attempts by the Opposition to put the NHS crisis back on top of the political agenda, both Liberal Democrat and Labour MPs demanded that Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, come to the Commons to make a statement.

Mrs Harriid, from Downham in Kent, was admitted to Guy's Hospital on December 13. Her family claimed that she was prepared for operations on December 23 and 24, and January 2 and 3 but each time it was cancelled. She died of a heart attack on January 4, two days before the fifth scheduled date for her operation.

Her son, David Harriid, told a press conference in Westminster that if she had not had her hopes lifted and then dashed four times, she would still be alive. Mr Harriid, 31, a music shop manager, said: "We feel it is mental cruelty to the patients to have to go through this torture of constant build-ups and let-downs."

He said his mother's death was purely a result of funding cuts yesterday. Mrs Harriid's husband, Bill, said the family wanted to make the story public to prevent future tragedies.

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said he would be asking the hospital for a full inquiry.

Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital Trust disputed the number of times that Mrs Harriid's operations were cancelled. Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust said Mrs Harriid had had three operations as a result of the bed shortages.

One of four NHS hospital beds has been lost in the past six years, Labour said yesterday. Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, said the reduction in beds since the NHS reforms were introduced was a reason for the current crisis.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

Queen to share golden wedding with 4,000 couples

By ALAN HAMILTON



The royal couple by Snowdon, a portrait released today

THE Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary later this year by hosting a garden party at Buckingham Palace for 4,000 other couples who also married in 1947 and are still together.

But unlike other garden parties, which are heralded by a stud through the letterbox of a stiff and finely-printed invitation from the Lord Chamberlain, on this occasion would-be guests will have to apply for tickets, and their names will be entered in a ballot.

The Palace said yesterday that more than 100,000 marriages had taken place in 1947, when even Princess Elizabeth had to count her clothing ration coupons for her wedding dress, but that many of

those would have died or divorced. The royal couple married in Westminster Abbey on November 20, at the height of postwar austerity, but will hold their garden party on the palace lawn on July 15, when the weather is more likely to favour an outdoor event.

Because no central record exists of couples who have survived half a century together, the Palace has had to resort to the unregal approach of inviting bids. But it is no worse than the system for sending congratulatory telegrams to centenarians: the Queen has to be told of an approaching 100th birthday before she can send her message.

Couples who wish to take iced coffee and cucumber sandwiches at the Palace are being asked to register with the office of the Lord Lieutenant of the county in which

they live. The Palace has promised that the eventual distribution of invitations will be on a pro rata basis in line with the number of applications received from each county.

Ballots will be held locally "to achieve the fairest possible spread throughout the country". Eligibility is limited to couples of British nationality. Nationals of other Commonwealth countries that have the Queen as head of state — as of this year, as opposed to 1947 when the marriage took place — should apply through their High Commission in London, the Palace said.

Applicants are asked to make contact by February 14 and to send copies of their marriage certificates as proof. Children and grandchildren are not invited, but may be allowed if needed as carers.

"It was thought this would be an

ideal way of enabling the Queen and the Duke to share this personal anniversary with others who equally share this landmark during 1997," the Palace said. "The garden party will give the Queen and the Duke an opportunity to meet people from a wide range of life experiences."

Those invited, like guests at any royal garden party, will have to pay their own way to London. They will not have to afford morning dress; a lounge suit will do for the men, but no lady has yet attended a royal garden party without incurring the expense of a hat.

"Most ladies choose to wear a hat, though it isn't absolutely mandatory," the Palace added. "If people want to wear tails it is a matter for them."

The afternoon in the Queen's private grounds, with tea served

after the royal couple walk through the crowds, is likely to prove the most memorable event of the year for most of those attending.

Ten days before the garden party, three times as many people are expected to attend another celebration, the independently organised Royal Pageant of the Horse. Designed to reflect the royal couple's best-known shared interest, it is described as the largest equestrian event ever held in Britain.

About 25,000 people will pay £40 or more to watch more than 1,200 horses and carriages in a spectacular display at Windsor Great Park.

Other commemorations include a crown coin (with a face value of 25p but costing £5) to be struck by the Royal Mint, and Britain's first gold stamps, to be sold from April 21, the Queen's 71st birthday.

Prince joins school homework campaign

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales yesterday backed the campaign for more rigorous school homework when he spoke to educationists at a conference in Edinburgh organised by his charity The Prince's Trust.

The journey north of the Borders made the Prince the first member of the Royal Family to visit Scotland since the televised debate on the monarchy last week in which 52 per cent of Scots voted in a phone-in poll to scrap the monarchy, with only 44 per cent in favour.

Speaking on the importance of homework for pupils, a subject taken up at the weekend by Tony Blair, the Prince told his audience: "The uncomfortable truth is that too many of our young people end up under-achieving at school... Too many of them do not learn the joys of learning... The lost potential for society as a whole is depressingly large."

The Prince's Trust has been involved in study support for five years. There are more than 300 study support centres across the country, which include after-school homework clubs, lunchtime study

New York: The Duchess of York was in Los Angeles yesterday to make a television advertisement for a low-calorie drink (Quentin Letts writes). The Duchess received an undisclosed amount for endorsing the Ocean Spray juice, which her spokesman said was a "cranberry like" flavour. According to one report, her fee is \$1.5 million (nearly £1 million). The commercial is to be shown for the first time next Monday on American television. It is unlikely to be aired in Britain.

sessions and summer schools. Last year 42,000 young people benefited from study support, 42,000 of whom were in Scotland.

"We very much hope to be helping 1,000 study support centres by the millennium," the Prince said.

Earlier the Prince had listened to Alison Robertson, 17, a pupil at Ballislaw Academy in Scotland. She spoke about her after-school

study support group in which senior pupils help to tutor younger pupils. She urged teachers to give more responsibility to their pupils. "You are all control freaks," she told her audience. "How can you expect to produce responsible pupils if you don't give them a bit of responsibility?"

Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, will announce the Government's homework plans this morning.

After the monarchy debate Buckingham Palace officials have let it be known that an initiative was under way to recapture Scottish hearts. But the views of a small crowd that had gathered in the Royal Mile by the end of the Prince's visit were mixed.

George McLeod, 71, said: "I think it is good to see Prince Charles here because it shows he has an interest in Scotland. I don't think it's fair to say at the moment if he would be a good king. He's obviously done a few bad things but then haven't we all?"

Gordon Muir, 46, said: "As a person, I think Prince Charles is all right... But on the monarchy, I really have to say I don't want them."



Diana, Princess of Wales, with flowers presented to her on arrival in Luanda

Princess wastes no time after arrival in Angola

By ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales, arrived in Angola yesterday to publicise a campaign to rid the war-ravaged and desperately poor African state of its 12 million landmines.

Looking tired at the end of an 11-hour flight, she nevertheless got straight down to business on the tarmac of the airport at Luanda, the Angolan capital, by making a statement to reporters and Angolan officials.

She said: "By visiting Angola we shall gain an understanding of the plight of the victims of landmines and how survivors are helped to recover from their injuries. We will also be able to observe the wider implications of these devastating weapons on the life of this country as a whole. It is my sincere hope that by working together in the next few days we shall focus attention on this vital but now largely neglected issue. So let's get on."

The Princess has agreed to lend her support to a Red Cross campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines, despite severing her connections

with the charity six months ago.

Angola is the most heavily mined war zone in the world after Cambodia. The country has 70,000 amputees, victims of the mines, and many thousands more unknown to the authorities. During her visit, the Princess will don body armour and be conducted through a narrow corridor cleared in a minefield.

She was met at the airport by Venancio de Moura, the Angolan Foreign Minister, met Franca van Duren, the Prime Minister, and last night dined with the wife of President dos Santos.

After a shower and change of clothes at the British Ambassador's residence, where she is staying, the Princess went to a briefing with Red Cross officials at the charity's Angolan headquarters in Luanda. She took notes and asked several questions, including whether landmine victims were treated for psychological trauma.

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Leading article, page 21



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Bishop condemns society for loss of childish innocence

By Russell Jenkins

THE newly enthroned Bishop of Chester has condemned modern-day Britain as forcing children to grow up too quickly, in a culture where pop stars are let off with a caution for drug offences and people are obsessed with the sexual misdemeanours of others.

The Rt Rev Peter Forster, 47, who has four children, said that the institution of marriage was in danger and he called for "more disciplined sexual behaviour". He launched his moral crusade two days after he was enthroned as the Church of England's youngest bishop.

He expressed deep concern for Kayleigh Ward, the nine-year-old missing from her home in Chester since before Christmas. "Children cease to be children so quickly these days," he said. "They are exposed to many temptations."

Four weeks ago Kayleigh went missing from a council temporary hostel where she lived with her mother and two sisters. The child, said by police to be streetwise, disappeared after she went to buy a bag of chips.

Dr Forster emphasised that he did not want to pass judgment on the girl's situation, acknowledging that "being a parent today is a hard business". But he attacked permissiveness, contrasting the plight of young children

The Rt Rev David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool, 67, intends to fulfil his full diary of engagements this year before he retires, it was disclosed yesterday. A former England cricketer, during his 22 years in the city he worked with the late Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, to forge closer links between the Anglican and Catholic churches. Yesterday the Rev Paul Dawson, his chaplain, said Mr Sheppard would not be attending the 1998 Lambeth Conference as bishop, but there would not be an immediate announcement of his retirement. "No captain declares an innings before he has discussed it with his team," Mr Dawson said.

such as Kayleigh with the way Liam Gallagher, lead singer of the pop group Oasis, was let off with a caution for possession of cocaine. He said the decision struck him as odd.

He said: "The desire for a quick fix is an underlying problem of our culture. The Pill and the sexual revolution may have brought some benefits but they also created problems. There is a need for more disciplined sexual behaviour in our society; heterosexual and homosexual." Dr

Forster, whose children are aged between 2 and 17, served as senior tutor at St John's College, Durham, and was vicar of Beverley Minster, in east Yorkshire. He believes he is the only bishop to have worked as a dustman - a holiday job when he was a student reading chemistry at Oxford University.

He spoke of his concern for the moral state of Britain in his enthronement sermon, in which he talked about the rising suicide rate, crime and the breakup of families. Yesterday Dr Forster reiterated the theme of the family in danger.

"We have been in danger of losing the more noble vision of marriage and what it is to bind ourselves to another person for life," he said.

"Marriage is for better or for worse. When marrying couples in the past I have always used the analogy of marriage and war. When our soldiers went off to fight in 1939 the cause was right and they did not go out for a trial period.

"At the moment we have an obsession with sexual misdemeanours in our culture which is unhealthy and reflects the free-for-all that has been going on in sexual relationships. Prudishness is produced as a reaction and this is unhealthy, as is the sort of prudence that exists now. A better outlook will flourish if we can establish a vision of the nobility of relationships."

Hand that soothes the patient's fevered brow is ageing rapidly

NURSES are getting older as fewer join the profession and more are nearing retirement (Jeremy Laurance writes). Fewer than one in five nurses is now under 30 compared with more than a quarter in 1990, according to figures published yesterday by the UK Central Council on Nursing and Midwifery.

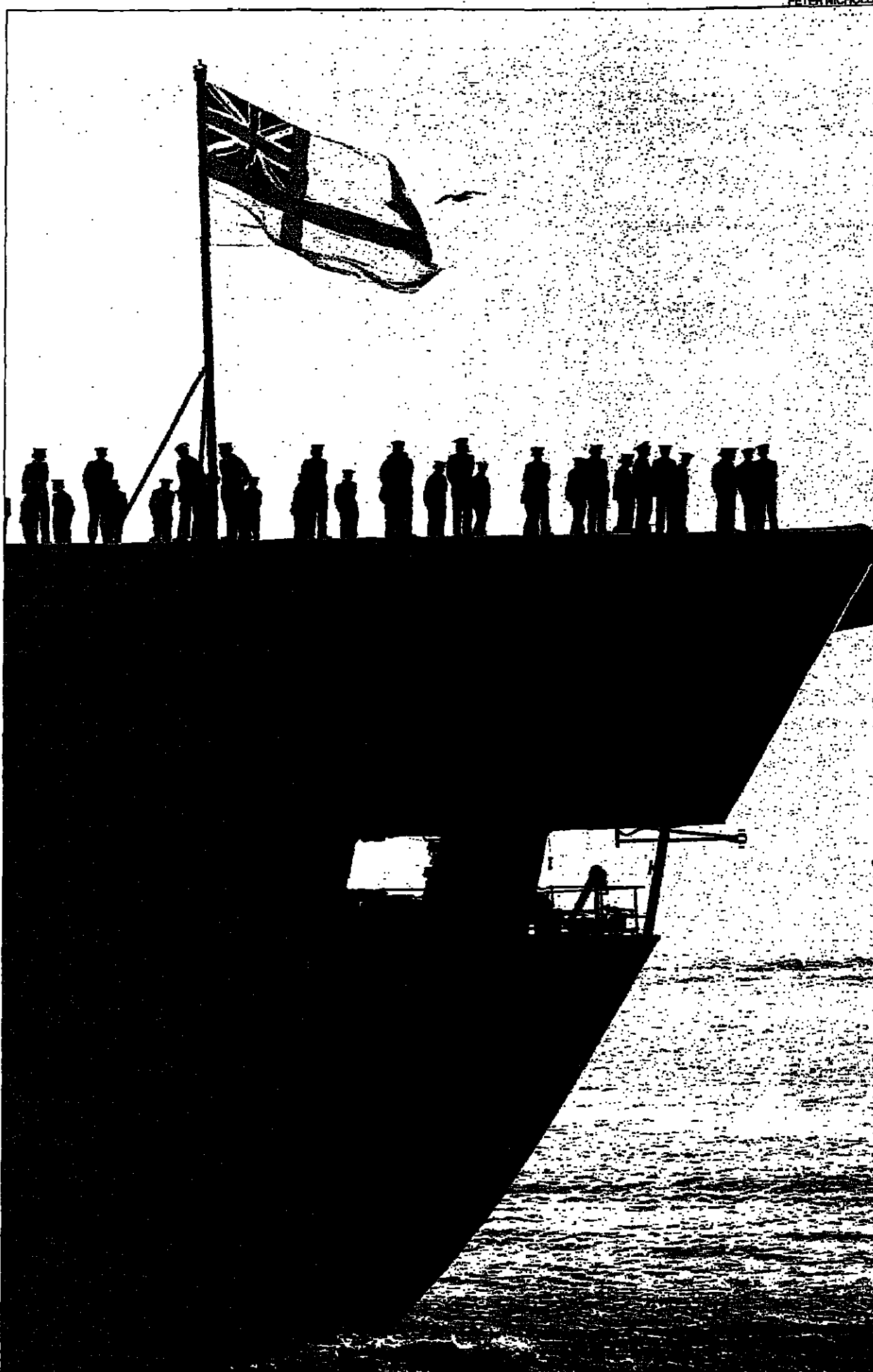
The explosion in higher education was blamed by the council for luring students from nursing. "Anyone with

half a brain can get to university and get a degree now. People who might have gone into nursing a decade or more ago may now be attracted by vocational courses," a spokesman said.

The Royal College of Nursing said the NHS was facing its worst shortage of nurses for ten years. It issued a list of 34 hospitals in England and Wales that have reported difficulty in filling posts. More than 20 per cent of nurses are

aged 50 or over and a retirement bulge is expected to cause further shortages.

The college said that the number of students joining nursing courses fell by 39 per cent between 1987-88 and 1994-95. Although the number of places has been increased by 14 per cent this year, these will not feed through into the workforce until the next century. "We have been saying for years that places should not be cut," the RCN said.



Leading a task force of 21 ships and 7,500 men: the crew of HMS Illustrious leaving Britain for 7½ months

Navy gets in trim for Far East handover

By Lynn Jenkins

THE aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious weighed anchor at Portsmouth yesterday to lead the biggest deployment of Royal Navy ships since the Gulf War. The show of strength in the Asia-Pacific region will coincide with the handover of Hong Kong to China.

More than 7,500 men and 21 ships will be involved in operation Ocean Wave 97, visiting 24 countries and taking part in 26 exercises during the next 7½ months. Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces Minister, said it was essential to show commitment to the region.

"Britain has huge interests in the Asia-Pacific region - commercial, political and strategic," he said. "This shows our concern for the stability and health of that part of the world. It will show Britain's determination to remain a player on the world stage."

He dismissed as "folish idiotic speculation" that the operation was also a show of strength to China at the handover of Hong Kong, or an insurance policy should events not run to plan. "The orderly and smooth rundown of the Hong Kong garrison will continue, and there is no reason to believe there will be anything difficult whatever."

The Royal Yacht Britannia embarks next Monday alongside Ocean Wave for her last overseas deployment. In her most ambitious commercial programme she will visit nations including Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as being joined by two ships from the task group for the handover of Hong Kong in August. The summer's replacement is underway.

Fleet training will include amphibious landings, jungle training, operating equipment in very hot weather and co-operation with forces from Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Rear Admiral Alan West, commander of the UK task group, said the "ambitious deployment supports the commitment in the area and shows military might in a region where you only need to be seen to see there is instability."

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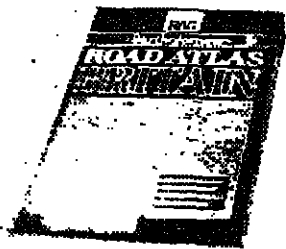
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Astronomer discovers cast of stars hidden in Hamlet



Shakespeare knew of the rival viewpoints

THERE is more of heaven and earth in *Hamlet* than has been dreamt of in anyone's philosophy, an American astronomer claimed yesterday. Shakespeare was not only tackling human issues such as revenge, madness and the point of existence, but he was also taking a wide look at the size of the universe and whether the planets orbit the Earth or the Sun.

The 1601 drama is full of references to rivalry between two theories of the cosmos. Professor Peter Usher of Pennsylvania State University said. The Bard championed the view that won.

Delegates at the American Astronomical Society's meeting in Toronto were told: "*Hamlet* is an allegory for the competition between Thomas Digges of England and Tycho Brahe of Denmark." In 1576, Digges, an English scientist and scholar, published his *Perfit Description*, in

■ Shakespeare was hailed yesterday for championing an English scientist's view of the universe against something rotten from the state of Denmark. Nigel Hawkes, science editor, reports.

which he took up the Sun-centred view of Copernicus, and suggested that the stars we see are like the Sun, and distributed through infinite space. At the end of the century, Giordano Bruno was martyred for publishing similar ideas.

Shakespeare knew Digges. Professor Usher says, and through him knew also of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, whose cosmology was Earth-centred and believed the solar system was embedded in a spherical shell of stars. "When *Hamlet* states: 'I could be bounded in a nutshell and

count myself a king of infinite space' he is contrasting the shell of fixed stars in the Ptolemaic and Tycho's models with the Infinite Universe of Digges," Professor Usher said.

"Claudius is named for Claudius Ptolemy, who perfected the geocentric model. Claudius personifies Ptolemaic geocentrism, while Rosencrantz and Guildenstern personify Tycho's geocentrism. The latter are summoned by Claudius because the position of the King is threatened by young Hamlet, who personifies the Infinite Universe." Thus, when

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are killed: so are Tycho's ideas, and when Claudius is killed, it signals the end of geocentrism. "The chief climax of the play is the return of Fortinbras from Poland and his salute to the ambassadors of England. Here Shakespeare signifies the triumph of the Copernican model and its Diggesian corollary," Copernicus was a Pole.

Prince Hamlet is a student at Wittenberg, a centre of Copernican learning but when he announces a desire to return to his studies there, the King demurs, saying: "It is most retrograde to our desire." This, Professor Usher says, was a play on the word retrograde, which is when the stars appear to move backwards. Explaining it was a problem for Earth-centred cosmologies, Hamlet's madness is linked to his support for Digges, the gravediggers assert-

ing that in England "the men are as mad as he". If that is right, Professor Usher says, then *Hamlet* "evinces a scientific cosmology no less magnificent than its literary and scientific counterparts".

Two groups of American astronomers reported the strongest evidence yet for the existence of black holes, the final outcome of collapsed stars whose dense cores suck in all nearby matter. A team from the University of Michigan used data from the Hubble space telescope to identify three new black holes. They believe a black hole exists at the centre of nearly every galaxy. A second team, from the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, studied pairs of stars where one is pulling gas away from the other, and found four where the energy simply disappears — a "strong indication" of a black hole.



Copernicus: symbolic triumph in the climax

Widow 'acted on husband's wish for baby'

By Emma Wilkins

DIANE BLOOD was honouring her late husband's wishes to have a child by seeking to use sperm taken from him before he died, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, for Mrs Blood, said that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority had been wrong to deny her permission to use the sperm, taken as Stephen Blood lay dying of bacterial meningitis. "Mrs Blood is clearly honouring the wishes of herself and Stephen. They had discussed the very situation which tragically later arose," he told the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Henry.

Before Mr Blood became ill in March 1995, the couple, who were desperate to have a child, read a magazine article about a case similar to that which later transpired, and agreed that Mrs Blood could use his sperm in the event of his sudden death. Mr Blood fell into a coma and died before he was able to sign a form giving his explicit written consent.

The High Court ruled last year that the authority had been within its rights to refuse Mrs Blood permission to use the sperm in Britain or abroad

because she did not have his written consent. After reviewing the case, the authority upheld the ban, in November. It had been wrong to refuse permission for Mrs Blood to take the sperm abroad where she could be treated at a Belgian clinic, Lord Lester told the court. The authority had also been wrong in refusing to look beyond the lack of written permission and examine the details of the case. "Had he [Mr Blood] been conscious when he was dying, there is no doubt that he would have signed a written consent."

The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act insists that written consent be given in cases of posthumous use of sperm but does not regulate cases where married couples are receiving joint fertility treatment.

Lord Lester told the court that Mr and Mrs Blood were embarking on a joint enterprise to have a child. Mr Blood's death did not mean that the joint enterprise had ended.

Mrs Blood, from Worksop, Nottinghamshire, was accompanied by her parents, Brian and Sheila McMahon at the hearing yesterday.

The hearing continues today.



Diane Blood arriving at court to hear her appeal over using her late husband's sperm

Health authorities 'ration abortions by ability to pay'

By Jeremy Laurence, Health Correspondent

WOMEN seeking abortions are being secretly divided by their GP's into the rich who can afford private treatment and the poor who need NHS care, a pro-abortion charity claims today.

The Abortion Law Reform Association found that health authorities are rationing the number of NHS abortions available, forcing GPs to choose which women should be referred to private clinics and which should be given an NHS appointment.

Some health authorities require women to answer questions about their financial status, such as whether they are on income support or have an outstanding summons for debt, before they will grant an NHS abortion.

One authority raised the age limit for NHS abortions from 16 to 21 because it found students were requesting the operation "and they did not have the financial wherewithal to have a private termination".

A survey of all 108 health authorities in England and Wales carried out by the charity found that the percentage of abortions on the health

service varied from more than 90 per cent to fewer than 50 per cent, depending on the funding provided.

In subsequent interviews with 19 authorities, all denied that women were asked directly about their willingness or ability to pay for the termination.

However, they admitted that not all abortions could be paid for on the NHS and emphasised that they tried to help the "needy".

Several authorities said that, although it was unethical, within the NHS to suggest that a woman should pay, it was acceptable to point out that she could wait several weeks for an NHS abortion or go almost immediately to a private clinic.

Jane Roe, manager of the association, said: "It is rationing by the back door, without the women's knowledge and without the public's knowledge."

"It is being left to the personal judgement of GPs and pregnancy counsellors. We hadn't realised until we conducted the survey that it was so endemic."

Mrs Roe said doctors with a

conscientious objection to abortion had blocked access to NHS treatment for years. The survey showed that in north-west Lancashire, a Catholic area, only 28 per cent of abortions were carried out on the NHS; this was the lowest proportion in the country. Solihull, at 41 per cent, was also low.

In Scotland, almost all abortions were performed within the health service and in 19 health authorities in England and Wales the figure was above 90 per cent.

Mrs Roe said: "We were shocked by the widespread use of means testing, although all health authorities denied that they were actually doing that."

"But they were quite happy to admit that they sorted out the 'needy' to make sure they were offered free treatment whilst those who could afford to pay were steered towards a fee-paying clinic. GPs or pregnancy counsellors were expected to assess who was able to pay."

Decisions were sometimes based on "moral judgments rather than health need," Mrs Roe said.

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Photographer on steroid therapy hanged himself

By Adrian Lee

THE society photographer Terence Donovan hanged himself after the drugs that he was taking for a chronic skin complaint made him depressed, his widow told an inquest yesterday.

Diana Donovan said that her husband had suffered from eczema for many years and turned to steroids because other treatments had failed.

Mr Donovan, 60, whose subjects included Diana, Princess of Wales, and the Duchess of York, was found dead in his studio in Ealing, west London, last November after failing to arrive for an assignment.

Mrs Donovan said she had noticed a change in her husband's temperament after he began the course of steroids. "He had suffered from chronic eczema for years and had seen various doctors. During the course of steroid treatment he seemed to become very depressed. The depression had been a recent thing. The change in temperament started after he had steroid treatment."

Mr Donovan had also been prescribed sleeping pills and

broke a doctor's appointment on the day of his death. Mr Donovan's wife of 26 years, who works at a hospice, said that her husband told her he was not going to keep the doctor's appointment. Mrs Donovan said: "When I asked him why he wasn't going he said: 'Don't worry. I then he said he was going to work for a short while but he didn't come back.'"

Mrs Donovan contacted the family doctor when her husband failed to arrive for the photo-shoot because he had never missed one before, and the GP advised her to call the police.

Mr Donovan, the son of an East End lorry driver and a black belt in judo, had two sons and a daughter. In the 1960s he photographed numerous celebrities including the model Jean Shrimpton and the actress Julie Christie. He was a non smoker and teetotal.

Dr John Burton, the Fulham Coroner, said: "He had been treated with steroids for chronic eczema and become depressed. I have to record that he took his own life."

Phil Spector fights to get back first big hit

PHIL SPECTOR, the legendary American record producer, launched a High Court action yesterday over the rights to his debut hit *To Know Him is to Love Him* (Michael Horsnell writes).

He is fighting to recover his copyright interest in the million-selling single, which was first recorded by the Teddy Bears, and for hundreds of thousands of pounds in back royalties.

Mrs Justice Ferris said the song failed to "ring any bells" with him, but was offered the opportunity of taking a CD away from court with him to refresh his memory. The song reached the top of the American charts in 1958 and

made number two in the British charts the next year. In the Teddy Bears' recording Mr Spector had played virtually every musical instrument but the drums.

The action by Mr Spector, who wrote the song when he was 18, is against British-based Bourne Music Ltd. Mr Spector claims that an initial 28-year copyright assignment under American law, in which rights were transferred to the publishers Varman Music and a licence granted to Bourne, expired in 1986 and that Bourne has no more rights in respect of the song. Bourne refuses to accept that it no longer has rights. The case continues.

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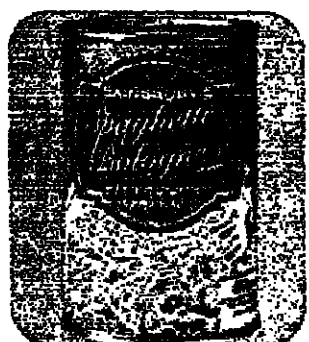
As part of our continuous quality programme, we have discovered that a component within the **Mitsubishi 1424** (14" 734cm visible screen size) portable television set may overheat, and in certain circumstances catch fire. These sets were sold through Dixons and Currys stores from January 1993 onwards. This recall applies to the **Mitsubishi 1424** only and no other Mitsubishi television. The model number can be located on the rating label (see below).

We are asking owners to contact us so we can modify the set. This will be done free of charge and at a time that is convenient for you.

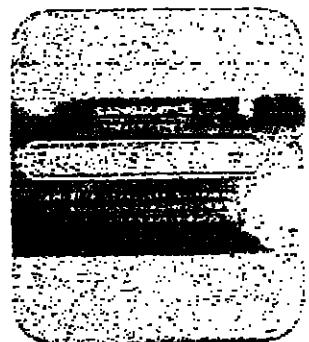
You should unplug and not use the set until you have contacted the number below for full safety instructions. Owners should contact our Customer Services Department 0541 541 541 or by post at Mastercare, Department 1424, Maylands Avenue, Harnet Hempstead HP2 7TG.



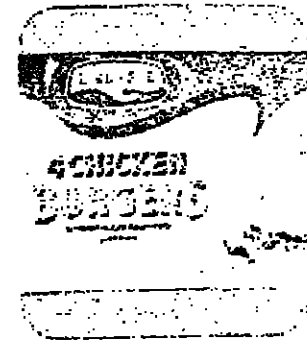
Kellogg's
Frosties 1kg
£2.99
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150 POINTS**



Sainsbury's
Spaghetti Bolognese
410g 63p
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Sainsbury's Frozen
Strudels 600g
£1.49
**BUY ANY
2 GET
100 POINTS**



Birds Eye Frozen
Chicken Burgers
x4 pack £1.39
**BUY 2 GET
100 POINTS**



Sainsbury's
Fabric Conditioner
4 litres £2.45
**BUY 1 GET
50 POINTS**



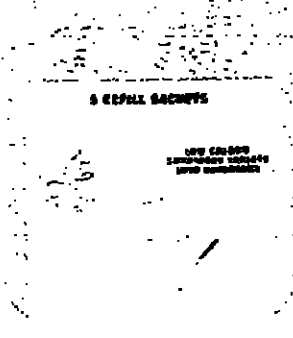
Wilkinson Sword
Shaving Gel 200ml
£1.89
**BUY 1 GET
40 POINTS**



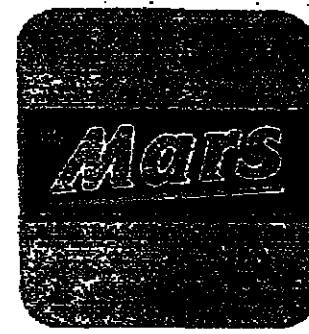
Sainsbury's
Low Fat Fruit Fools
113g 48p
**BUY 2 GET
50 POINTS**



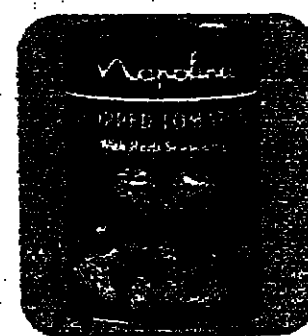
Canderel
Tablets x 500
£4.99
**BUY 1 GET
100 POINTS**



Del Monte
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411g 79p
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Mars
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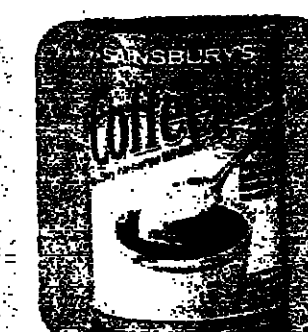
Heinz
Squeezy Ketchup
1.14kg £1.71
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Heinz Weight Watchers
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Aristoc
Ultra 10 Tights
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Sainsbury's
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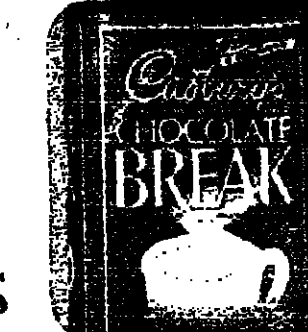
Finish
Dishwashing Tablets
x40 pack £5.79
**BUY 1 GET
130 POINTS**



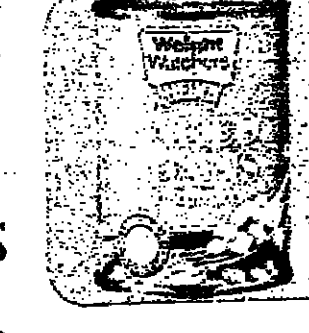
Sainsbury's
Sweetcorn 510g
65p
**BUY 2 GET
35 POINTS**



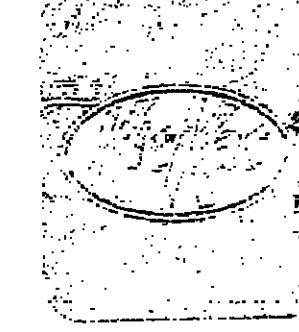
John Smith's Bitter
4x440ml pack
£3.39
**BUY 2 GET
200 POINTS**



Cadbury's
Chocolate Break
400g
£1.99
**BUY 2 GET
100 POINTS**



Heinz Weight
Watchers Baked
Beans 420g
33p
**BUY 2 GET
25 POINTS**



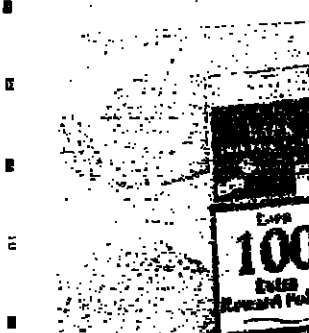
Kit Kat
4 Finger x 8 pack
£1.69
**BUY 2 GET
80 POINTS**



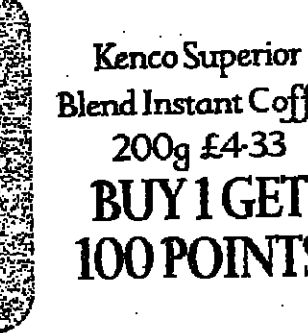
Timotei Shampoo/
Conditioner 200ml
£1.39
**BUY 1 GET
50 POINTS**



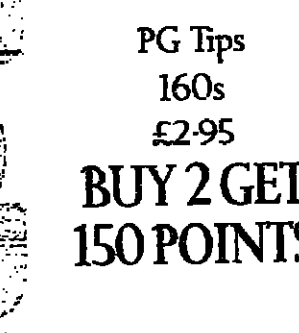
Kellogg's
Hot Krumbly 600g
£1.59
**BUY 2 GET
80 POINTS**



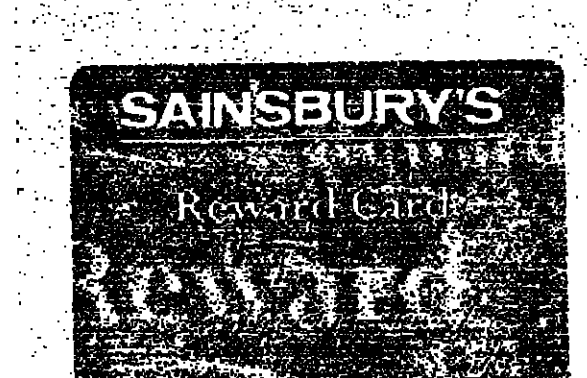
Danish Unsmoked
Rindless Bacon
Twin Pack 500g
£3.29
**BUY 1 GET
100 POINTS**



Kenco Superior
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200g £4.33
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Shell considers new roles for redundant Brent Spar



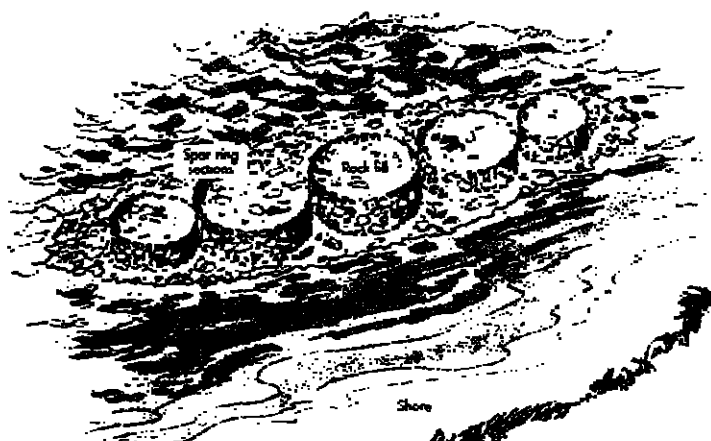
Plans to dump the Brent Spar were blocked in 1995

By Nick Nuttall
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SHELL yesterday ruled out dumping the Brent Spar oil platform at sea and announced a shortlist of proposals for its future, including scrapping it on shore, using it for coastal defences or as a training centre, and turning it into a harbour gate.

In the summer of 1995 Greenpeace successfully campaigned against plans to sink the Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Its activists occupied the platform and Shell was boycotted on the Continent. After backing down under intense pressure, Shell apologised to the Government, which had backed its plans.

The shortlist of proposals from six groups for the 14,500 tonne buoy has been arrived at from a list of 30 ideas, including turning it into a floating casino, a Blackpool tourist attraction, and an electricity



Among shortlisted proposals for the Brent Spar are using it in a coastal protection scheme, and turning it into a training centre

generator with windmills. Those ideas have been scrapped in favour of more modest schemes which, Shell insists, would be cost effective and environmentally friendly.

Eric Faulds, Shell Expro's de-

commissioning manager, said: "The proposals now to be developed represent the best of those we were offered, while also maintaining a good range of potential solutions. This is an exciting com-

petition and still wide open. We genuinely do not know what the eventual solution will be.

"All the ideas require the Spar to be first raised from the water. Overcoming its structural limita-

The final proposals include an Anglo-French bid by McAlpine Doris JV to raise and rotate the buoy using compressed natural gas to turn the hull into a quay extension.

Wood-GMC, in an Anglo-Norwegian bid, suggests jacking the buoy in half and using the top as a training centre and the bottom as a quay extension.

Kvaerner Stolt Seaway Alliance, in a Norwegian-Dutch bid, also claims that the top half could be used as an onshore training facility. Both groups claim that there are companies in Norway that are keen to acquire part of the Brent Spar for that purpose.

AMEC, of Britain, is suggesting using cleaned sections of the hull as part of the Environment Agency's coastal protection programme for the East Anglian coast. The hull sections of the buoy, sliced up into hoops, would stabilise the core of the defence.

Bullimore treated for frostbite but in 'terrific condition'

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN FREMANTLE

TONY BULLIMORE underwent surgery to save a badly frostbitten finger last night after a joyful reunion with his wife Lalel.

"I always knew the old bulldog would come home," she said shortly after stepping off a flight from London.

The yachtsman, who had spent four days in the hull of his upturned yacht in the freezing waters of the Southern Ocean, replied: "You're either a survivor or you're not a survivor."

The Bullimores hugged and kissed when they met in the British consul's residence in Perth. Mr Bullimore told his wife: "Careful, don't stand on my feet," referring to the frostbite that has affected them. He was then taken for treatment in a decompression chamber.

Doctors said he and Thierry Dubois, the Frenchman who was also picked up by HMAS Adelaide last week, were extremely fit considering their ordeal. Dr Harry Oxer said: "I think they are in terrific condition. They are incredibly cheerful, they're great." He

said the aim of the recompression treatment was to reduce the swelling in Mr Bullimore's feet. "It will get more oxygen to the nerve endings and tissues in the blood vessels so the normal healing process is helped."

Earlier Mr Bullimore, 56, had returned to a hero's welcome as thousands of people crowded onto the quayside at Fremantle to catch a glimpse of the Briton, who has vowed to continue solo round-the-world sailing.

"I have got one or two projects in my mind," he disclosed at a press conference. "The fact is that sailing is one of the things I do in life. The simple answer is that I am going to keep going until I can't go anymore."

Asked if he thought he was pushing his luck, Mr Bullimore replied with an emphatic "No".

Pressed about race rules that allow yachtsmen to sail so far into the Southern Ocean, he said he was preparing a list of recommendations to the organisers of the Vendée Globe challenge in France but

was reluctant to make drastic changes. "It would be easy to chip off all the difficult bits," he said. "But it's like saying you can't go up the north face of the Eiger in mountaineering. You have to achieve a balance."

Casting an eye over the thousands who had turned out to welcome him, Mr Bullimore said: "I'm absolutely astonished. It's unbelievable." Of his ordeal, he said: "I really thought I'd bought my ticket this time. If it wasn't for the professionalism, the dedication, the inbuilt spirit of Australians, I am positive I would not be here now."

Admitting at this point that he was "slightly emotional", he added: "All I'm going to say is thank you to everybody on the Adelaide and thank you Australia for giving me my life back."

M Dubois, 29, also paid tribute to the ship and aircraft crews involved in the rescue but denied the two were heroes. "I don't like a lot of the word hero. We are not heroes. I think Australia have a lot of heroes on this ship and in the aircraft that saved us," he said.

Later, asked whether he might need trauma counselling after his experience, Mr Bullimore said he would much prefer a beer. "You work it out for yourself, what would you sooner do? Go and have a beer down the pub or be counselled?"

The yachtsman, whose survival story is attracting big commercial interest from newspapers, television and film studios, added before shuffling into a waiting ambulance: "It doesn't take much to work that one out, does it?"



Tony Bullimore is helped into an ambulance by his wife, Lalel, yesterday after a medical examination in Perth

Few beers the best course for recovery

THE dismissive approach of Tony Bullimore to the benefits of immediate counselling after a harrowing experience is in accord with modern teaching. As one would expect from a man of his temperament, Mr Bullimore opted for a few pints with the lads as a means of overcoming any post-traumatic stress disorder.

Any event that is completely outside a person's normal experience, particularly if it is life threatening or endangers their family, their house or possessions, can induce post-traumatic stress disorder. Nothing could be further from a person's normal life-style than having to prepare an upturned yacht in the South Atlantic as one's tomb.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is always precipitated by some dramatic happening but its effect on an individual depends on their vulnerability. The great majority of people are able, like Mr Bullimore, to withstand the most appalling disasters, and their psyche is so strong that after a few good nights' sleep they are back to their normal selves.

Mr Bullimore shows every evidence of having a personality far stronger than most and one that could withstand situations that would give most people nightmares for life. Evidence is now accumulat-

ing that once any of the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder surface, the sooner treatment is instigated the more likely the condition is to respond to treatment. Conversely, there is also evidence that if counselling is made widely available to people who have no symptoms, the very symptoms it is designed to alleviate may be precipitated. It seems that ill-advised counselling may well awaken a demon that might otherwise have lain dormant.

People who are going to develop post-traumatic stress disorder may also find it difficult to sleep and to concentrate and they tend to suffer such symptoms as sweating and tremulousness. For the time being, Mr Bullimore should stick to his beer drinking and enjoy his reunion with his family. If, in time, he finds that his sleep is disturbed, and that he can no longer chat to his wife about the "daily round and trivial task", he should then seek to see a counsellor.

Mr Bullimore will have to watch out for recurrent nightmares and he and his wife will have to take note as to whether he is unusually sensitive, cross and irritable, has lost interest in his usual pleasures, or feels detached from strangers and incapable of displaying the love and affection that he used to dispense.

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Thousands of people turned out in Fremantle to see the rescued yachtsmen arriving on HMAS Adelaide

Bouncer broke MP's nose

A part-time bouncer admitted head-butting Ian McCartney, a Labour employment spokesman, and breaking his nose at the Labour club in Wigan last November. Mr McCartney, who has campaigned for a national registration scheme for doormen, was having a drink with friends when Keiron Quinn, 29, approached him, knocked off his glasses and struck him with his head. Wigan magistrates adjourned the case. Quinn, who has previous convictions for violence, was released on bail.

PC sues joyrider

PC Craig Langley, 42, whose police career in Birmingham was ended by neck injuries when his squad car struck a lamppost during a chase, launched a High Court test case for compensation against Kirk James Dray, the "joyrider" he was pursuing. The hearing continues.

Dead sorry

The Royal Mail apologised to Gordon Thornton, 72, and his wife Christine, 65, after their post arrived by hearse. Their postman drove the vehicle and was using it deliveries on a busy day in Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. He was delivering a letter from the couple's cardio-vascular surgeon.

Royal gun sale

A shotgun given to the future Edward VIII in 1899 when he was the five-year-old Duke of York is expected to fetch up to £50,000 when it is auctioned at Sotheby's on February 19. The 360 hammer gun, by James Purdey & Sons, is about one third the normal length and engraved with a crowned E.

Boy dies on M66

Stephen Crawshaw, ten, of Bury, Greater Manchester, was killed after he stopped to pick up his prized baseball cap which fell off as he and a group of friends ran across the M66 near Bury. Police said it appeared that the children were using the motorway as a shortcut.

Hero pays price

PC Stuart Mackenzie, 49, who won the Queen's Gallantry Medal for his part in the capture in 1975 of the kidnapper and murderer Donald Neilson, is retiring because of defective hearing caused by a shotgun blast during the arrest at Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire.

Newly identified breed of rhino is most at risk of extinction

By Nick Nuttall

SCIENTISTS have discovered that a small group of hairy rhinoceroses living in Borneo are genetically unique and constitute a distinct subspecies of the creature. It makes the Bornean rhino the most critically endangered on the globe.

Some researchers believe as few as 25 of these elusive animals live in the wild. The scientists fear that the subspecies may be lost if it is allowed to breed with its nearest kin. Professor Don Melnick, an evolutionary genet-

cist of Columbia University, a member of the team, said yesterday that cross-breeding with Sumatran rhinos increased the risk that the offspring would have reduced fertility and be ill-suited for the wild. He called for the Bornean animals to be swiftly moved into a tropical forest reserve.

The genetic studies into the rhinos of Borneo have been carried out by Professor Melnick and researchers including Dr Patrick Mahedi Andau, director of the Wildlife Department of the state of Sabah, where the last confirmed sightings of these animals

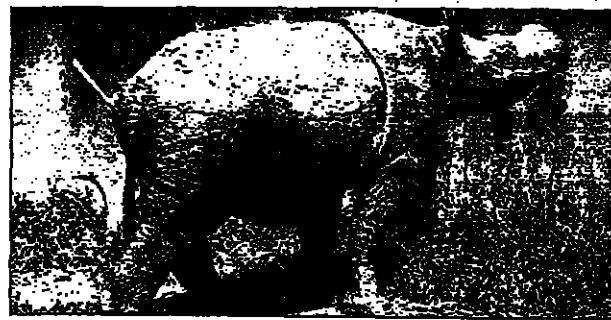
have been made. The findings are published today in the journal *Conservation Biology*.

The Columbia University scientist discovered in 1989 that several subspecies of African black rhino are so close genetically that they can be interbred to increase that species' chance of survival. But the genetic differences between the Sumatran rhino, of which there are estimated to be between 200 and 300 animals, and the Borneo breed are too significant to make this sensible, the scientists claim.

The Borneo rhinos are slightly

smaller than their Sumatran cousins and they produce quite shaggy coats when held in captivity.

More than a million Sumatran and Borneo rhinos, the oldest surviving group of rhinos, once roamed South-East Asia in the mid-19th century. Small creatures with a distinctive double horn, the numbers have been dramatically reduced by poaching, development, logging of their tropical forest homes and booming human populations. They have proved difficult to breed in captivity because they need semi-natural conditions.



The Bornean rhino is smaller than the Sumatran, above

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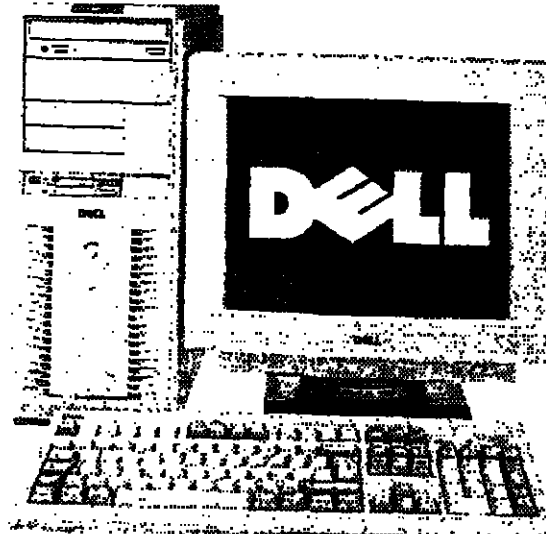
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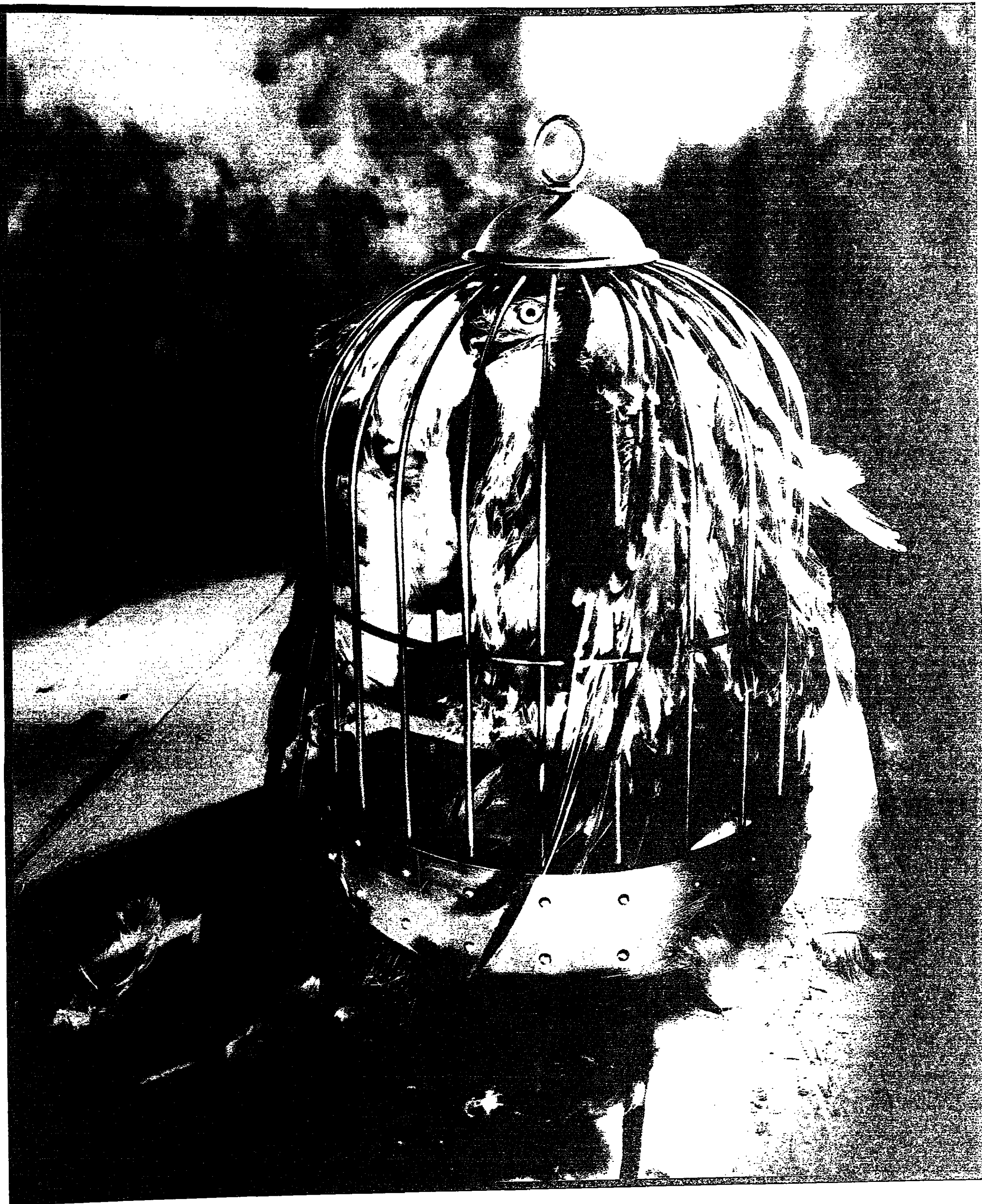
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How long can Government policy go on restricting our growth?

The Government claims that it believes in free trade and open competition. So far as international air travel is concerned, the reality is very different.

Manchester Airport's ability to grow is being stunted by red tape in the form of archaic regulations dating back to 1947, which were introduced essentially for military reasons, and before the introduction of passenger jets. These regulations - called bilateral agreements - require that before an airline can start a new service between 2 countries an international treaty between the respective Governments is required.

In today's highly competitive market place these rules are an utter

irrelevance to Manchester and other regional airports. Other Governments recognise this and pursue an Open Skies policy to the benefit of their airports and countries.

Major competitor airports like Singapore and Amsterdam therefore attract additional routes without getting snarled up in inter-governmental politics. By contrast, Manchester is constrained by a regulatory process which impedes and deters international airlines from starting new services.

The impact on the regional economy and on employment is enormous. An independent firm of analysts, York Consulting, have estimated that the

introduction of an Open Skies policy would create in the order of 10,000 jobs in the North West between now and 2005.

An IATA passenger survey has found Manchester to be the 'World's Best Airport'. Many airlines want to start up routes to and from Manchester, allowing more passengers to fly directly to their chosen destinations, and creating jobs here rather than exporting them. The Government can unilaterally declare 'Open Skies' over Manchester and other regional airports and support the creation of jobs and passenger choice.

There is no good reason why the Government should not act now. It must!

Israeli hardliners launch bid to halt Hebron pact

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI hardliners yesterday launched a campaign in the Cabinet and the Knesset to prevent Israeli troops withdrawing from Hebron after Sunday's breakthrough in negotiations engineered by King Hussein of Jordan.

As Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met in a Jerusalem hotel to finalise an agreement for Israeli troops to leave most of the disputed city immediately, and 80 per cent of the occupied West Bank by mid-1998, Jewish settlers called a series of meetings.

Leaders of the 450 Jews living in the heart of Hebron and the 130,000 in the wider West Bank — land they regard as Israel's biblical heritage — accused the right-wing Government of Benjamin Netanyahu of betrayal.

They vowed to target individual ministers in his 18-member Cabinet to persuade them to reject the Jordanian-brokered compromise.

Last night the hardliners claimed that at least seven ministers were prepared to vote against the deal and that at least three others were wavering.

Cabinet approval is not legally required, but it would be difficult for Mr Netanyahu — the former political darling of the settler community — to proceed without a Cabinet majority. Intense lobbying was also taking place in the

corridors of the 120-seat Knesset, which has to approve any deal.

Ehud Barak, the former Labour Defence Minister and chief contender to lead Labour in the next election, said the new deal was worse from an Israeli point of view than that negotiated in 1995 by the previous Labour Government.

Political commentators said that steering any deal through the Cabinet and parliament would confront Mr Netanyahu, 47, Israel's first directly elected Prime Minister, with the most serious challenge of his turbulent eight months at the helm. Among influential ministers on record as opposing the Hebron deal in its present form is Ariel Sharon, the former war hero.

"The agreement is liable to create an extremely severe and dangerous situation here," said Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the militant Hebron settlers who live among 120,000 hostile Palestinians. Tension in the city was high after reports of King Hussein's eleventh-hour initiative, and two petrol bombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle.

At a stormy "emergency meeting" of the Yesha Council, which represents settlers in the whole of the West Bank, there were calls for mass civil disobedience and political moves to find a replacement Prime Minister for Mr

Netanyahu. Outside the hotel where the deal was being drafted, a group of Israeli right-wingers waved black flags and held up signs, including one that read: "Hebron deal spells end of Zionism."

As night fell, Israel radio reported Palestinian negotiators were claiming that Israel was trying to alter nine points in the compromise agreement. Among outstanding points still not agreed were a timetable for the release of Palestinian prisoners and security arrangements for the new Palestinian airport in Gaza.

In the Knesset, Michael Kleiner, a right-wing deputy, described the Hebron deal as "a trap set by Yasser Arafat" for Mr Netanyahu. The National Religious Party, an important part of the ruling coalition, was quick to decide at an angry meeting that its nine Knesset members would vote against the pact.



Altar boys lead Hong Kong judges to St John's Cathedral yesterday during the ceremonial opening of the 1997 legal year, the last under colonial rule (Jonathan Minsky writes). The judges and lawyers paraded in full traditional dress — with wigs, pantaloons, silk ties and colourful robes — in what is the

Hong Kong big wigs on parade

colony's cold season. Many residents don heavy winter coats in temperatures that rarely fall below 60F (15C). It is not yet known whether the rubric "One Country, Two Systems", which underpins the 1984 British-

Chinese treaty, will include the continuance of the full sartorial legal panoply, in which the wigs alone, created at London's Ede & Ravenscroft, cost almost £1,600. That decision will be made by the

new Chief Justice, yet to be named by Tung Chee-hwa, the first Chief Executive.

More serious is a shortage of judges. Fifteen of the high court judges will be eligible for retirement before the July 1 handover.

Law, page 43

Pressure mounts on Savimbi to join peace effort

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THABO MBEKI, South Africa's Deputy President, flew to Angola yesterday in an attempt to save the faltering peace process and prevent a return to civil war when the United Nations peacekeeping force pulls out next month.

Last week President Mandela met Jonas Savimbi, leader of Unita, the former rebel group, to urge him to join a government of national unity. Dr Savimbi signed the 1994 Lusaka ceasefire, but has refused to take part in the Government, fearing that he and his followers would be killed in Luanda, the capital and stronghold of the left-wing MPLA administration of President dos Santos.

Mr Mbeki briefed President dos Santos yesterday on the talks, which he said were "very fruitful". Dr Savimbi had previously refused to meet Mr Mandela in South Africa, his former backer and arms supplier. Mr Mbeki insisted South Africa would not take the part of the United Nations, America, Russia and Portugal as mediators, who are trying to broker agreement before the scheduled formation of a government of national reconciliation on January 23. Francisco Pedro, a former exile

who formed the Democratic National Union of Angola in 1994 to fight government corruption, is urging the 6,600-strong UN force to prolong its stay until elections have been held.

However, in an interview with *The Times* he was pessimistic that the Government would agree to a ballot. He said that, although political parties were allowed to operate under the Lusaka agreement, the Government controlled access to the media. He also accused President dos Santos and the Government of massive corruption — an allegation also made by aid agencies and international observers.

Britain has also urged reconciliation between the former warring parties. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, had talks in Luanda last week with President dos Santos, other government leaders and Unita representatives.

Aid agencies are giving warnings that unless the two sides begin to co-operate, there could be a return to war. More than 300,000 people died in renewed fighting that followed the breakdown of the last peace agreement and Dr Savimbi's repudiation of the 1992 elections.

Seventy Unita members of parliament elected in 1992 are finally due to take their seats in the next few days, having missed the deadline last week. On the military front, part of the Unita fighting force began joining the Angolan Army last week, as called for in the Lusaka agreement.

Of the 65,000 troops it mobilised during the civil war, 23,000 are to be absorbed into the Angolan Army. Two thousand former guerrillas have already joined up.

Leading article, page 21

South Africa seeks to outlaw dogs of war

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

LEGISLATION to outlaw the recruiting of mercenaries in South Africa, and to stop local companies setting up offshore subsidiaries to provide military and intelligence know-how to other countries, is to be drafted urgently by the Pretoria Government.

Kader Asmal, chairman of the Conventional Arms Control Committee, a parliamentary body, said yesterday that it had noted with concern reports that South Africans were involved in a mercenary build-up in the Great Lakes area of eastern Zaire.

South Africans who operated in Angola and, more recently, in Sierra Leone are

said to be joining a 500-strong force — dubbed the "white legion" — gathering at Kisangani. Mercenaries are believed to be signing contracts worth £3,000 to £8,600 a month with the Zairian Government and gold and diamond mining companies, including the British-based firm Branch Energy.

Executive Outcomes, the world's largest private military advisory firm, is based in Pretoria. Eben Barlow, its chairman, has denied it is involved in Zaire.

Mr Asmal said yesterday that the Government wanted its legislation enacted by the middle of the year.

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New front opens in German war with Hollywood

Film plot links Bundesbank with Nazi scheme to restore Hitler's domination

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A NEW front has opened in the war of words between Hollywood and the Germans. This time, in the German view, the enemy fire comes not from glowering big box-office champions of Scientology, but from producers determined to depict the Bundesbank and pro-European politicians as the secret heirs to Hitler.

"Hollywood film defames Germany," read the banner headline in the mass circulation *Bild* newspaper. The conservative *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* settled for the tamer headline "World and madness".

The new source of German angst is a film in production based on the novel *The Day After Tomorrow* (Little, Brown & Co, by Allan Folsom, a scriptwriter. The thriller — which has also been translated into German — describes a conspiracy between the head of the Bundesbank, politicians and businessmen.

Their aim is to restore National Socialism under the cover of advocating a federal Europe. The climax is in the Swiss Alps, where the Bundesbank and other evil Teutons try to transplant Hit-

ler's head — rescued from his Berlin bunker — on to a living body. "It all sounds grotesque," writes Frank Schirrmacher, the influential *Frankfurter* commentator, "and one becomes nauseous at the thought that very successful books always reveal something of the collective unconscious."

The German outrage follows hard on the heels of the Scientology affair — an open letter to Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, signed by 34 Hollywood names such as Dustin



Folsom: said to have already made £2 m

Hoffman and Goldie Hawn. The letter, published last week, compared the German treatment of Scientologists — who are not recognised as an official religion in Germany and who have been excluded from some public service jobs — with the marginalisation of the Jews in the 1930s.

Herr Schirrmacher said the letter "showed what happens when you view the world with the eyes of a thriller and film-writer. The Holocaust becomes nothing more than a story." The same criticism applied to the Folsom book and its conversion into a film.

Germans have long been unhappy about their portrayal by Hollywood. German officers are either stupid (*The Goose Steps Out*, *The Great Escape*); sadistic (*To Also Die*, *The Night of the Generals*); treacherous (*Lifeboat*); or fanatical (*49th Parallel*). As Germany came to be recognised as one of Europe's biggest markets for Hollywood films, so a slightly more subtle approach crept in. The 1982 film *Escape to Victory*, which combined ethnic and football clichés, managed against all odds to portray a



Evil has landed: Michael Caine as a German, left, Laurence Olivier in *Marathon Man* and Peter O'Toole in *The Night of the Generals*

fair-minded German officer (played by Max von Sydow, a Swede), pitted against insensitive Nazi colleagues.

Another feature of the Hollywood Nazi was that he was frequently played by an Englishman. This is partly because Englishmen are thought to sneer better (Peter O'Toole in *The Night of the Generals*), and partly because they are less offensive to European (and indeed Ger-

man) cinema-goers. Thus, Michael Caine played the doomed paratrooper officer in *The Eagle Has Landed*. Robert Shaw the doomed tank commander in *The Battle of the Bulge*, Laurence Olivier the dastardly dentist in *Marathon Man* and Paul Scofield the mad (and of course doomed) villain in *The Train* *Escape*.

The Germans put up with this for decades but hoped for a sea change after Liam Neeson played the lead in *Schindler's List* — a kind of German war hero. The feeling, tentatively expressed, was that a unified, firmly democratic Germany deserved better from Hollywood. Instead, producers were peppered with scripts about the Fourth Reich. The Hoffman letter invoking the Nazi era seems to have plunged the German cultural establishment into a deep

depression. Perhaps this gritty survival of the Hollywood Nazi has helped to spur Germans to head for Tinseltown themselves. The talk now is of a third wave of German emigrants to Hollywood, the first having been in the 1920s with talented directors such as Ernst Lubitsch, and the second taking in many German refugees from the Nazis in the 1930s. The latest wave includes mainly cameramen but

also directors such as Roland Emmerich, who made last summer's hit *Independence Day*.

The film rights to Mr Folsom's book were bought for an undisclosed sum by MGM, the recently reinvigorated Hollywood studio. The producer behind the project is Richard Zanuck. Mr Folsom is said to have already made at least \$4 million (£2.3 million) from the book.

Chirac warning as strikes loom over retirement

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC has warned France's public sector workers that mounting demands for earlier retirement, with the threat of further strikes, fly in the face of economic realities and will compound the country's woes. Inspired by the success of the lorry drivers' strike in November, which extracted a promise of government funding to allow truckers to retire at 55, other sectors are now demanding to stop work earlier on full pensions.

Six major public transport unions have already called for a one-day strike on January 24 to press demands for retirement at 55 rather than the standard age of 60, and with unemployment at a record 12.7 per cent and the Government calling for greater budget austerity, the issue of early retirement is likely to be the next serious test of strength between Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, and the unions.

"Our compatriots wish to work less and retire earlier and I understand this," M Chirac said at the weekend. "But our country must not forget the economic and demographic realities of the world we live in... we will not do better if an ever-decreasing number of working people have to carry the weight of an increasing number of young and retired people."

Those hard economic truths were echoed yesterday by numerous key government figures, but they have found little resonance among workers who have seen the Government cave in to truckers. A recent poll by the BVA institute showed that more than six out of ten French voters favour an official retirement age of 55, while barely a third fear this "would aggravate the problem

of financing retirement". Paris transport workers already have the right to retire at 55, while train drivers can stop work on full pensions at 50. However, trade union leaders are divided, with the militant CGT and Force Ouvrière unions demanding earlier retirement and the moderate CFDT as yet uncommitted.

Ministers and other political notables have waded into the debate over whether early retirement will ease unemployment, an argument which Francois Bayrou, the Education Minister, declared was "a delusion and a lie".

Edouard Balladur, a former Prime Minister, argued that retirement age should be raised, not lowered, while Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, noted that "with life expectancy increasing constantly" the retirement age could go no lower. "It is inconceivable that a great majority of people could enjoy early retirement financed by a minority of the population in work," M Arthuis said.

Lowering the retirement age would add millions to the government deficit at a time when France is already struggling to meet the debt-reduction criteria for European monetary union.

Magazine fined: A Paris court fined the weekly *Paris Match* €100,000 (£12,600) yesterday for publishing two photographs of the late French President, Francois Mitterrand, taken secretly as he lay on his deathbed.

It also ordered the magazine to pay each member of the Mitterrand family a symbolic €1 in damages for violating their privacy. The photographs showed Mitterrand's body in a dark suit and tie, with his hands crossed on his stomach. (Reuter)

Spaniard's promotion deal angers some MEPs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BARRING an upset, a Spanish conservative from an illustrious family will be picked as President of the European Parliament today in a cosy deal with German parties that has stirred revolt among MEPs from smaller states and political groups.

José María Gil-Robles, 61, a lawyer, has landed the job in a "Buggins's turn" arrangement that has the blessing of Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and José María Aznar, Spain's centre-right Prime Minister.

Señor Gil-Robles, deemed less than a heavyweight, follows Klaus Hänsch, the mild-mannered German Social Democrat, who has spent the past 2½ years as the leader of the European Union's only directly-elected assembly.

The presidency arrangement, which springs from the power balance in the 626-seat



Gil-Robles set to lead European Parliament

parliament, has prompted a revolt by liberals and left-wingers, led by French MEPs. About 100 votes in today's secret ballot are expected to go to Catherine Lalumière, a former minister under the late President Mitterrand, who is standing in protest against what she calls an undemocratic carve-up.

Spaniards and Germans of both Left and Right have shared the post between them since Britain's Lord Plumb stepped down in 1989.

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Supreme Court weighs delay of Clinton sex case

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN A tense, one-hour sitting, the US Supreme Court yesterday heard both sides of the case of William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones, a sexual harassment suit which raises fundamental questions about the power of the presidency, as well as threatening to be highly embarrassing for Mr Clinton.

On the basis of yesterday's questioning — 30 minutes for each side — the court's nine judges will decide whether to allow Mrs Jones's sexual harassment suit to proceed while Mr Clinton is in the White House. Mrs Jones alleges that in 1991, when Mr Clinton was Governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee, he enticed her into a hotel room and made unwanted advances. Mr Clinton denies the allegations.

The court is not considering the merits of Mrs Jones's case, but simply the constitutional question of whether a president should have to face civil lawsuits unrelated to his presidency while he is in office.

Mr Clinton's lawyers argue that if the case proceeds, it will

trigger a flood of opportunistic, politically-motivated lawsuits against presidents. Mrs Jones's lawyers counter that "if you believe the President, then we have a monarchy, we have a king. If you believe Paula Jones, then we have public servants that remain accountable for their own personal, private conduct."

The court's judgment is due



Jones alleges Clinton made advances

by June, but in theory it could decide within weeks. Although the present judges give the court a conservative slant, its verdict is considered extremely hard to predict. If it appears likely to rule in Mrs Jones's favour, the President's lawyers are expected to try to reach a settlement.

During the hearing, the court's nine judges, handicapped by the shortage of precedents, questioned Mr Clinton's lawyers closely on why he did not have time to attend. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor asked Mr Clinton's lawyers how they would argue if the case was one of child custody, where time was critical.

The case has reached the Supreme Court because Mr Clinton has appealed to it to overturn the judgment of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that it should go ahead provided that the judge was "sensitive" to the President's need to carry out his public duties.

The Supreme Court, whose judges are appointed for life by the President with Senate



Protesters at the Supreme Court show their support for Paula Jones as judges considered whether her case could be heard while Mr Clinton is President

approval, is designed to be a check on the power of both the presidency and Congress. Its extensive powers make it more than just a court; in effect, it is a law-making body. It determines whether power belongs to national government or to the states, and can review

decisions of lower courts, state laws and Acts of Congress. While the court was in session, 30 demonstrators braved below-freezing temperatures to wave placards proclaiming "Give Paula her day", "President or King?" and "Zippergate".

A man dressed in a furry white duck costume paraded the sign "Stop ducking responsibility, Mr President" while a troupe calling itself "Five Flashers for Clinton", dressed in mackintoshes, shoes and socks, held a banner warning that "an accused sexual predator is at large in this neighbourhood, residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue". After the hearing, Gilbert Davis, Mrs Jones's lawyer, said: "Justice delayed is justice denied."

Joseph Cammarata, her second lawyer, fiercely attacked women's groups for hypocrisy, failing to support Mrs Jones because they regarded Mr Clinton as sympathetic to their causes. Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's lawyer, would say only: "I think it's time to be circumspect."

Exposing President, page 20

Peru siege rebels shoot at police as 'warning' in war of nerves

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

TUPAC AMARU rebels, holding 74 people hostage in the Japanese Ambassador's mansion in Lima, sparked panic yesterday when they ran out into the walled garden and fired at a dozen shots in the direction of police posts.

Policemen, posted all around the compound, dived for cover, but refrained from firing back. The gunfire was heard just before midday, when the Red Cross had left after delivering a daily consignment of food and water for the hostages. Michel Minnig, the Red Cross representative, returned to the mansion and was able to confirm that none of the hostages was injured.

The burst of gunfire was the heaviest of its kind since the Marxist rebels took over the mansion on December 17 to demand the release of their jailed comrades. Television footage showed two heavily armed rebels, with grenades strapped to their bodies and wearing bulletproof vests, firing in all directions around the compound. "We heard at least 12 gunshots coming in our direction, but they appeared to be a provocation rather than an attempt to hit at specific targets," a policeman on the scene said.

In two previous incidents, a lone rebel patrolling the walled garden at night had

fired shots. Infra-red television cameras had caught him running in and out of the mansion as well as shooting towards police posts.

As the siege draws into its fourth week nerves are fraying. The rebels are making renewed attempts to draw attention to their demands, which so far have been ignored by President Fujimori's Government.

Red Cross workers said the rebels had stated that the shots had been meant as a "warning" to the Government. Yesterday's shooting spree came after what appears to be the breakdown of dialogue. Expectations of an end to

the siege had been raised earlier when the Government said its chief negotiator would hold a second face-to-face meeting with Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, the rebel leader. But that was cancelled after the rebels reiterated their demand that 440 of their imprisoned comrades be freed.

Lima was not ready to talk on those terms. A spokesman said the Government proposed the setting up of a "commission of guarantors" to start talks about a "possible peaceful solution".

A Western envoy said: "The Government is ready to let this drag on as a war of nerves and see who breaks first."



Messer: alleged sadistic attacks by male cadets

'Harassed' women march out of Citadel

BY BRONWEN MADDOX

TWO of the four women cadets admitted to the Citadel, the tough South Carolina military college, have dropped out alleging "criminal, sadistic and disgusting" harassment.

Kim Messer and Jeanie Mentavios enrolled last August when the school changed its admissions policy. They say they were sprayed with nail polish remover and set on fire, that faces cleaner was put in their mouths, and that they were showered around with rifles.

Neither Miss Messer nor Miss Mentavios was injured in the incidents, which emerged in December. According to the Citadel, 11 cadets had been charged with rule violations. Punishment could range from marching tours to expulsion.

In 1993 Shannon Faulkner, admitted under court order, became its first female cadet, only to drop out during the first week of classes in 1995 citing stress and isolation.

The Citadel began admitting women last year after the US Supreme Court ruled that single-sex education at publicly funded military colleges was unconstitutional. On joining, Miss Faulkner gave an interview calling Miss Faulkner "unmotivated, undetermined and physically unfit". In contrast, she had spent six weeks at a Reserve Officers' Training Corps camp.

Despite an assurance that the Citadel was improving security, they will not return. "While I might be physically safe on campus, I would not be welcome," Miss Messer says.

Old pets' home will come up to scratch

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A MILLION-DOLLAR retirement home for pets — complete with scratching posts, sunbathing rooms and kind-to-paws heated floors — is to be built in New York.

The pets' nursing home, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, will provide old-age care for faithful family animals. The regime will include climbing ladders, free rubber balls and gentle, twice-daily walks.

To satisfy "feline residents", as a brochure describes them, a greenhouse-style sun trap will be reserved for pensioned-off cats, with plenty of window space.

Pet owners from around the world have expressed interest in booking their elderly pets into the Bide-A-Wee Association's "Golden Years" pets' home in Westhampton, Long Island. Building work on the home is expected to begin in a couple of months, and Bide-A-Wee, which already runs pet shelters in Manhattan, hopes to have its new facility open by the autumn.

Provisional fees will be a one-off payment of \$10,000 (£6,300) for any dog or cat, with the proviso that the pets must be at least eight years old — 56 in human terms — and must be judged to be unadoptable.

Bide-A-Wee expects that the majority of customers will be people who are themselves in the autumn of their years and no longer able to look after their four-legged companions. "We had one man who called us whose wife has passed away; he has three pugs, and he does not want them to be separated when he passes away," Elizabeth Cooke, president of Bide-A-Wee, a charitable institution, said.

The \$10,000 fee will cover burial or cremation costs, plus a small headstone in Westhampton's exclusive Pet Memorial Park — animals' answer to Highgate cemetery. The opening of a pet retirement home appears to reflect a growing disinclination among ageing Americans to ask their young relations to "look after Rex" in their dying wishes. A pet is no longer "for life" but rather "until I die".

Sudan readies troops after Ethiopian raids

Khartoum: The Sudanese Government yesterday prepared public opinion for a military campaign after the army said that Ethiopian forces had attacked two border towns. State radio and television broadcast patriotic songs and poetry, with messages supporting the Government and attacking Ethiopian "aggression".

The radio said the Osman Digna brigade of the paramilitary People's Defence Forces was preparing to leave for the border towns of Kurmuk and Qassan, 360 miles southeast of the capital. Sudanese rebels say they captured Kurmuk and some army garrisons in Blue Nile Province on Sunday in the first big combined operation by northern and southern opponents of the Khartoum Government. (Reuters)

Quake shakes Cyprus cities

Nicosia: A powerful earthquake off the coast of Cyprus yesterday shook buildings on the island and was also felt in Israel, Lebanon and Egypt (Michael Theodorou writes). Office workers in some Cypriot cities rushed into the streets during the 30-second tremor, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. Experts said the impact of the quake, which measured 5.8 on the Richter scale, was weakened because it had originated 12½ miles underground and the energy was released in short bursts. The epicentre was about 30 miles southwest of Paphos, in the same area as an earthquake last October that killed one person in Cairo.

Hutu questions witness

Arusha, Tanzania: The UN tribunal on Rwanda took the unprecedented step of granting a request by an ethnic Hutu, accused of genocide, to cross-examine the first prosecution witness directly. Jean-Fabrizio Akayesu, the former mayor of Rwanda's Taba commune, pointedly tried to undermine the credibility of the witness, known only as "K", to protect her identity. She told the court that he had personally ordered the hacking to death of eight Tutsis. Mr Akayesu, 43, has pleaded not guilty to charges of genocide. (Reuters)

Yeltsin's wife in hospital

Moscow: Naina Yeltsin, the wife of the Russian President, joined her husband in the Central Clinical Hospital, suffering from what the Kremlin described as an infection (Robin Lodge writes). Sergei Yestrichemsky, the presidential spokesman, said Mrs Yeltsin's condition was not serious and that she had been to see her husband, who is stable with pneumonia, several times since being admitted. In August, Mrs Yeltsin, 64, underwent surgery on her kidneys.

Algerian rebels kill 19

Algiers: An armed group slit the throats of 14 people in "Binet village 30 miles south of here, sticking some victims' heads on stakes. In a nearby village, five young women who refused to cover their heads were "judged", then killed. The attacks, confirmed by security forces, were the latest in a wave of terror marking Saturday's fifth anniversary of a military-led coup that scrapped Muslim-won elections. (AP)

Fiord vehicles in pile-up

Copenhagen: A Dane whose car went through ice trying to cross a frozen fiord borrowed a four-wheel drive vehicle to haul it out, but that also went through the ice. So did a tractor he then borrowed — and then another borrowed tractor. The national rescue service eventually did the trick after seven hours, the Berlingske Tidende newspaper reports. (AP)

Greek Cypriot vow on missiles eases tension

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

RAUF DENKTAS, the Turkish Cypriot leader, last night welcomed confirmation by President Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, that Russian anti-aircraft missiles would not be deployed on the divided island for at least 16 months.

But he rejected an assessment by Carey Cavanaugh, the US envoy, that the crisis was over.

Greek Cypriot officials said the missile delay left ample time to achieve an overall solution to the long-running Cyprus problem, but that they would take delivery of the

missiles in the summer of 1998 if there was no progress.

European diplomats said this showed that the Greek Cypriot Government still viewed the missiles as a bargaining chip. They said that continuing tensions would make it very difficult for the international community to help to bring about a Cyprus settlement this year.

The Belgian Government also confirmed that Turkey was negotiating to buy surplus Belgian and Dutch surface-to-air missile systems from a French company.

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CHANGING TIMES

Home alone

As workers we are like bees and our instinct is to hive, says Giles Coren

Working from home was going to be the social revolution of the 1990s. A combination of factors — better and cheaper home computers, modems and faxes, fibre-optic technology — was going to make it easier. Everything from air pollution to sexual harassment were going to make it desirable. And business fashion was going to make it inevitable.

It has begun to happen, and the deluded workers who remain in the office are fewer, more miserable, more tired, more stressed, more ill. Downsizing, right-sizing, outsourcing has sent us scattering to the green belt to rear nuclear families, keep dogs, bake bread, and file our wage-earning efforts down telephone lines.

It sounded like a dream lifestyle. Every consideration was catered for. Except one: loneliness.

Human beings like to bustle. They like to fuss and fidget, and grumble and gossip. They are gregarious by nature, and while good friends and family are important, it is the wide cast of passing acquaintances and low-grade office enemies that keep us ticking over. We may be social animals, but as workers we are bees. And our instinct is to hive.

"I think we are beginning to see the end of this fashion for moving out to Cornwall with a modern, or setting up a post office in West Wales," says the occupational psychologist Peter Forsyth, of Career Analysts Ltd, which advises people on just such job-changing issues as this. "There was a huge rush out of the office in the heyday of downsizing, back in the early Nineties. Big corporations were laying people off and they were taking their redundancy payments and seeing it as an opportunity to set up on their own."

But the price they paid was loneliness. Suddenly they found they were missing people — those informal chats over coffee, or a sandwich, in the canteen. We are a gregarious race, and it is part of the human psyche to need interaction with others — both for friendship, and for advantage, which is to say networking.

But surely the home working life must suit some people? "About one fifth of the workforce is suited to working from home," says Mr Forsyth. "We can run a psychometric test that will determine how each person will respond to it. We would be looking for strong independence, indicating high autonomy. Low anxiety is very important, as is imaginativeness and detachment. It is a profile that does not fit many people."

"The big boom in working from home was all a bit of an overreaction," he says. "And it is already coming to an end. As people realise that it was not all it was cracked up to be, the wine circles and other groups are filling up with lonely people, and I anticipate fairly soon doing a lot of work with people, trying to get back into the office."

If further evidence was needed that the boom in working from home is



One fifth of the workforce is suited to working from home. A psychometric test can evaluate each person's response to it

creating a craving for human interaction, look at the swelling memberships of such organisations as the Royal Horticultural Society, which is up to 200,000. Membership of the National Trust has risen 11 per cent in the past six years to 2,269,563. In the same period, membership of the Royal Geographical Society has risen by 30 per cent and the Ramblers Association has seen its ranks increase by 40 per cent. We are just too gregarious to work from home, and our impulse to yak, natter and distract ourselves is seeing us run to whichever groups will have us, to get our fix of social interaction.

In the village of Blewbury, in Oxfordshire, the writer and publisher Stephen Gaimyer, who had moved out from Putney, very quickly missed the buzz of office life, and set up the Home Alone Club with an advertisement in the *Blewbury Bulletin*. Soon he had architects, gardeners, accountants and animators beating a path to his door, selected on the simple question "do you work with people?" to weed out interlopers. Last month they even had their first Christmas party.

Then there is the Freelancers' Convention, a group of freelancers, mainly writers, who gather once a month for lunch to "create a metaphor for office chit-chat and ribaldry".

Michael Wright, who has been a freelance writer for the past five years, was a founder member. "Working alone at home all day, you can begin to feel rather isolated. We set up this group to give ourselves a sort of virtual community. The whole point of the freelance life is the freedom, from the bitterness of office politics as much as anything else. But you are working in a vacuum, and you need ways of alleviating that pressure." Meeting in pubs and restaurants on the last Friday of each month since March 1996, by November the group was up to 12 regulars, and in December, of course, came the office party.

"Half the stuff we talk about is general day-to-day gossip, who's in who's out, the rubbish that people in offices take for granted. It is not a necessity in the freelance life, but it is an enhancement — our conversations are a bit useful, too."

While not everyone is able to enjoy the constructed camaraderie created by

Messrs Gaymer or Wright, most home-aloners find other ways to hive. The number of people eating out has soared and in big cities it is becoming harder and harder to book tables, as spaces are filled by the lonely self-employed getting their weekly fix of humanity. On the way home they leer greedily through office windows, half-dreaming of a grimy nine-to-five, watery tea from a machine and a bitchy boss barking into their ear.

The popularity of gyms and health clubs, night schools, the revival of Tupperware and Anne Summers parties, sad conversational Web sites on the Internet, all testify to the desperation with which the newly dislocated are seeking a little quotidian company to keep themselves ticking over.

When, in 1987, Margaret Thatcher announced that there was no such thing as society, she was wrong. If she said it today, she would be closer to the truth. Each home-aloner who forsakes the office and then grows bored and lonely and sets up an awkward appreciation council to while away the hours, drives another nail into the fabric of modern life. You cannot replace society with societies.

Tony Cardwell swapped teaching for thatching Out of the classroom and on to the rooftop

The idea of emptying your office desk into a bin bag and heading in a new direction is alluring. We imagine we will be reinvigorated, rejuvenated even, in a new career, and will face life with fresh verve and eagerness.

And yet we seldom do it. Perhaps because there is so little precedent for it, or because we do not know what to do instead, or because we are afraid.

So here is the experience of Tony Cardwell, 58, a Kent thatcher who spent the first 20 years of his professional life as a teacher, before seeing the light in 1983, and heading for the rooftops.

He gave up writing when he realised he was not going to make it and got a temporary job as a teacher. "In those days all you needed to teach was a university degree. I soon discovered that it was not nearly as bad as I had thought so I looked around for a permanent job, which I found at a remarkable boarding school called Bethany School, in the Weald of Kent.

"It was a terrific life, and I hope I did it justice. I was an English master and also involved in everything from rugby and cricket to clay

of freedom and found the creative life I had been looking for." But there was a catch.

"If you have followed a particular way of life for 20 years, surrounded by people who constantly demand your time and attention, and then find yourself working in solitude, above ground level, it can be extremely difficult to adjust."

"I had spent 20 years in an environment where life was governed by the ringing of bells, for the masters as much as the pupils, and everything had been highly regimented. Suddenly, I was running my own little business, with total freedom of movement. A job pops up, and you go out and do it — travelling around the country working for all sorts of different people."

"I would warn anyone contemplating such a change of careers that there are dangers. You don't go mad or anything, but there are psychological effects. My marriage went over the side in the end. It was not a direct result of the job change, my wife had been utterly supportive in that. What happened ultimately was that I had an affair. It was unforgivable, I know, and I would not have expected my wife to stay with me after that. We separated nine years ago."

Thirteen years into thatching, however, there are few regrets. "Everything in life has its ups and downs, and consequences. But that shouldn't stop you from following your chosen path. We must all try to fulfil our inner selves in every possible way, and to use our talents as best we can. It was the logical move at the time, and I am glad that I did it."

"When I do a bit of thatching, or play jazz, I feel that I have arrived. A bit late in life, perhaps, but I'm there."

GILES COREN

"Not only was teaching not what I had planned to do," Mr Cardwell recalls, "it was also what I had always planned not to do. I don't mean to knock the profession. It is a very satisfying and worthwhile life, and dedicated teachers are fine people. It was just that I never intended to do it. I had originally wanted to be a writer, but since I was not prepared to live in a garret with only a crust of bread to eat, I tried my hand at a number of professions."

After Tonbridge School, and a philosophy degree at Bristol University, Mr Cardwell found career options were not so much about what he wanted from life as what he did not want.

"I felt no specific calling in any one direction, but I knew that I wanted to do something creative. At university I played jazz, and there did come an opportunity to join a professional band, which I decided not to do," he says. After a period spent living in a croft in Scotland, "writing in daylight because there was no electricity", he came to London to work in a publishing house, and realised that living in a big city, and commuting every day, was not what he wanted.

'We must try to fulfil our inner selves and use our talents'

pigeon shooting. While at first I lived in the school, I soon got married and moved into my own house."

And for the next 20 years all was well. "I was very happy at Bethany, though for perhaps the last ten years the idea of getting out had been rumbling around in my mind." By 1983, when his children were in their teens, he felt the time was right to make a change.

"I was living in a thatched house at that time, and it so happened that the roof needed some attention. I became aware that the Thatching Advisory Service, with whom my roof was insured, was training thatchers and selling them franchises."

Mr Cardwell completed his training and bought a franchise. "At last I was working from home. It was a lovely change, and a very pleasant lifestyle. I had a terrific sense



Tony Cardwell, teacher turned thatcher: "I found the creative life I was looking for"

A well-paid and successful job isn't everything, as Catherine Lucas discovered

When Earth comes first, and money second

Lying on the hard, cold ground in my sleeping bag, I gazed up into a dark sky, glittering with stars. It was late, probably three or four in the morning and although my bed was spartan, it was a relief to be in it. The day had begun early. I had cooked breakfast for about 30 people, spent most of the day sitting in a road waiting for something to happen and I had been on watch since midnight, armed with a walkie-talkie.

The past five days had been exactly the same and I was tired, dirty and strangely exhilarated. I was at an Earthfirst camp, in Oregon, protesting against the logging of an area of ancient forest. Earthfirst specialises in on-site direct action protests and all around me people were digging trenches and rigging platforms in an attempt to stop the loggers.

Only a few months before I had been a television producer, living in London, with a wardrobe full of clothes, a diary full of dinner parties and a life made miserable with stress and deadlines. Now, to my surprise, I found myself labelled as an eco-terrorist, using my television skills to try to portray the protest in a favourable light to an extremely hostile local media.

I had had reservations about my job for some time. For a start I knew that it was physically demanding. By the end of every contract I was

exhausted and I would spend the free time you are supposed to enjoy as a freelancer recovering enough energy to begin working again. I also had the unshakeable feeling that there was something else I should be doing, something that would contribute to the well-being of others and bring me greater happiness.

For years I told myself I had no right to complain, that I should be grateful to have a fascinating, well-paid, sought after job. And I was. So I continued to pursue my goal of becoming a successful producer. Yet the doubts lingered and, ironically, what I gained most from the struggle to get to the top, was the self-confidence to stop: once I had proved I could be successful, I no longer needed to go on doing it.

Even so it took a moment of shattering truth to convince me. A project was proving particularly difficult. I had no sleep for weeks and one morning as I walked to the office, I suddenly thought "Supposing I was run over like this?" It died feeling like this. It might seem extreme, but to me it made perfect sense. It is not dying that worries me, but the state I am in when I go. I

would like to die with a degree of clarity and I realised the only way to ensure that was to change the way I lived.

So I finished my contract and, with no definite plans, I told my family and friends that this was my last television job. People told me I was "crazy" and that I was "throw-

ing my career away". After a while I understood that in some way my decision threatened the status quo and people were really expressing their own fear of change.

Following through with my decision required a major leap of faith, in myself and in the infinite potential of the universe. Over a period of several months the things that I had drawn on for security

The things I had drawn on for security evaporated

gradually melted away. The universe was rewarded and life opened up. I had the feeling of being in the right place at the right time and strange coincidences occurred. I went to the Earthfirst camp with my cousin Susie, a

forest activist in Oregon. The day I arrived at her house, she got a call saying that a controversial timber sale had been approved by the Forest Service. No one knew when logging would start, but people were gathering to protest and Earthfirst had already set up camp. We drove there immediately.

At the camp I decided to stay for a while, seduced by the commitment and passion of the people around me. I soon discovered many of them had once had "respectable" jobs. One was a professor who had felt increasingly isolated from what was really happening, others were former government scientists, there was even a man who'd been a logger.

Although it seems momentous when you are doing it, actually people change careers all the time. Ultimately it boils down to whether you will give yourself permission to pursue what you really want from life. And even though it can be frightening and difficult, it is well worth suffering a little discomfort, because there is so much to be gained.

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NIGELLA LAWSON
on working mothers
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In the second extract from Anne Frank's unexpurgated diaries, Anne's developing

Love and a first kiss



The Amsterdam house where the Frank family hid

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1944
Love, what is love? I don't think you can really put it into words. Love is understanding someone, caring for him, sharing his joys and sorrows. This eventually includes physical love. Losing your virtue doesn't matter, as long as you know that for as long as you live you'll have someone at your side who understands you, and who doesn't have to be shared with anyone else!

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1944
This is the first Saturday in months that hasn't been tiresome, dreary and boring. The reason is Peter. This morning we spoke French together for a while and I explained something to Peter, and then we worked on our English. Father read aloud from Dickens, and I was in seventh heaven, since I was sitting close to Peter.

I went down stairs at quarter to 11. When I went back up at 11.30 Peter was already waiting for me on the stairs. We talked until quarter to one. Oh, I'm so happy! I wonder if he's going to fall in love with me after all? In any case, he's a nice boy, and you have no idea how good it is to talk to him! Mrs van D thinks it's all right for me to talk to Peter, but today she asked teasingly, "can I trust you two up there?"

"Of course," I protested. "I take that as an insult!" Morning, noon and night, I look forward to seeing Peter.

I can tell by Peter's face that he ponders things just as deeply as I do. Last night I was annoyed when Mrs van D

coffed, "the thinker!" Peter flushed and looked embarrassed, and I nearly blew my top. Why don't these people keep their mouths shut? You can't imagine what it's like to have to stand on the sidelines and see how lonely he is, without being able to do anything. I can imagine, as if I were in his place, how despondent he must sometimes feel at the quarrels. And about love. Poor Peter, he needs to be loved so much!

Oh, Peter, if only I could help you, if only you would let me! Together we could banish our loneliness, yours and mine!

I'm doing my best not to chase after him, but it's not easy!

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1944
I've been dreaming of Peter a great deal. The night before last I dreamt we were standing in Peter's room, facing each other beside the stairs. I said something to him; he gave me a kiss, but replied that he didn't love me all that much and that

I shouldn't flirt. In a desperate and pleading voice I said, "I'm not flirting, Peter!"

When I woke up, I was glad Peter hadn't said it after all.

Last night I dreamt we were kissing each other, but Peter's cheeks were very disapproving; they weren't as soft as they looked. They were more like Father's cheeks — the cheeks of a man who already shaves.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1944
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday I was in Peter's room from 4.30 till 5.15. We worked on our French and chatted about one thing and another. I really look forward to that hour or so in the

afternoon, but best of all is that I think Peter's just as pleased to see me.

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1944
Things are getting crazier here as the days go by. Peter hasn't looked at me since yesterday. He's been behaving as if he's cross with me. I'm doing my best not to chase after him and to talk to him as little as possible, but it's not easy. What's going on, what makes him keep me at arm's length one minute and rush back to my side the next? Perhaps I'm imagining that it's worse than it really is. Perhaps he's just moody like me, and tomorrow everything will be all right again!

I'm in a state of utter confusion: on the one hand, I'm half mad with desire for him, can hardly be in the same room without looking at him; and on the other hand, I wonder why he should matter to me so much and why I can't be calm again!

Day and night, during every waking hour, I do nothing but ask myself, "Have you given him enough chance to be alone? Have you been spending too much time upstairs? Do you talk too much about serious subjects he's not yet ready to talk about? Maybe he doesn't even like you? Has it all been your imagination? But then why has he told you so much about himself? Is he sorry he did?" And a whole lot more.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1944
Parents and people in general are very peculiar when it comes to sex. Instead of telling their sons and daughters everything at the age of 12, they send their children out of the room the moment the subject arises and leave them to find out everything on their own. Later on, when parents notice that their children have, somehow, come by their information, they assume they know more (or less) than they actually do. So why don't they try to make amends by asking them what's what?

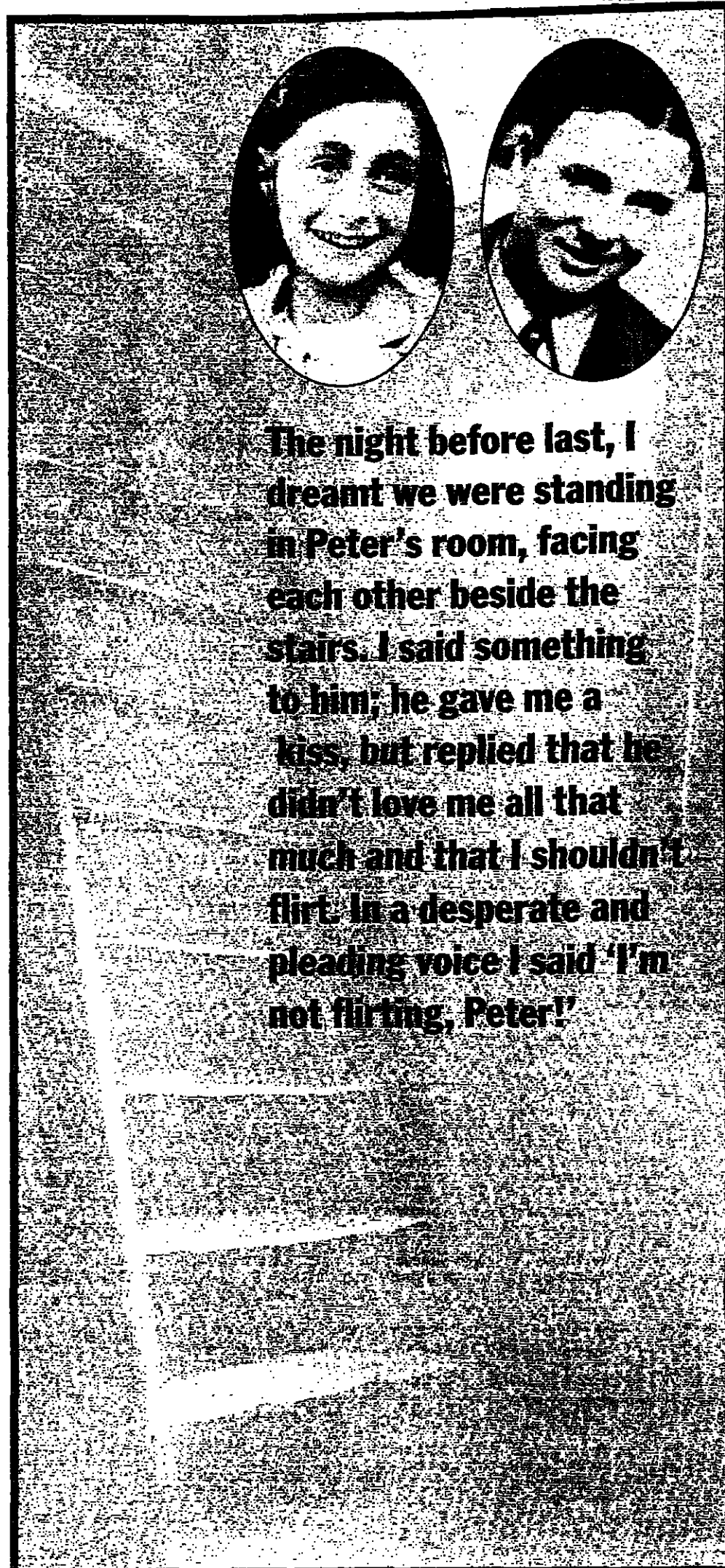
A major stumbling block for the adults — though in my opinion it's no more than a pebble — is that they're afraid their children will no longer look upon marriage as sacred and pure once they realise that, in most cases, this purity is a lot of nonsense. As far as I'm concerned, it's not wrong for a man to bring a little experience to a marriage. After all, it has nothing to do with the marriage itself, does it?

Soon after I turned 11 they told me about menstruation. But even then, I had no idea where the blood came from or what it was for. When I was 12½ I learnt some more from Jacques, who wasn't as ignorant as I was. My own intuition told me what a man and a woman do when they're together; it seemed like a crazy idea at first, but when Jacques confirmed it, I was proud of myself for having worked it out!

It was also Jacques who told me that children didn't come out of their mother's tummies. As she put it, "where the ingredients go in is where the finished product comes out". Jacques and I found out about the hymen, and quite a few other details, from a book on sex education. I also knew that you could keep from having children, but how that worked inside your body remained a mystery. When I came here, Father told me about prostitutes, etc., but all in all there are still unanswered questions.

If mothers don't tell their children everything, they hear it in bits and pieces, and that can't be right.

Even though it's Saturday, I'm not bored! That's because I've been up in the attic with Peter. I sat there dreaming



The annexe, and inset, Anne Frank and Peter van Daan. "He helps me through many a rough patch."

The night before last, I dreamt we were standing in Peter's room, facing each other beside the stairs. I said something to him; he gave me a kiss, but replied that he didn't love me all that much and that I shouldn't flirt. In a desperate and pleading voice I said "I'm not flirting, Peter!"

with my eyes closed, and it was wonderful. I was with Peter yesterday and, somehow, I honestly don't know how, we ended up talking about sex. I'd made up my mind a long time ago to ask him a few things. He knows everything; when I said that Margot and I weren't very well informed, he was amazed.

He offered to enlighten me, and I gratefully accepted: he described how contraceptives work, and I asked him very boldly how boys could tell they were grown up. He had to think about that one, he said he'd tell me tonight. I told him what had happened to Jacques, and said that girls are defenceless against strong boys. "Well, you don't have to be afraid of me," he said.

When I came back that evening, he told me how it is with boys. Slightly embarrassing, but still awfully nice to be able to discuss it with him. Neither he nor I had ever imagined we'd be able to talk so openly to a girl or a boy, respectively, about such intimate matters. I think I know everything now.

That night in the bathroom Margot and I were talking about Bram and Trees, two friends of hers. This morning I was in for a nasty surprise: after breakfast Peter beckoned me upstairs. "That was a dirty trick you played on me," he said. "I heard what you and Margot were saying in the bathroom last night. I think you just wanted to find out how much Peter knew and then have a good laugh!"

I was stunned! I did everything I could to talk him out of that outrageous idea: I said that he doesn't know exactly how it all fits together. He was talking about the "Muttermund", but that's on the inside, where you can't

wouldn't pass on anything you said to me and I won't. Thank goodness he came right out and said what was on his mind. Imagine if he'd gone around thinking I could be that horrible. He's so sweet!

Now I'd have to tell him everything!

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1944
I've had to listen to countless remarks about our sudden friendship. I can't tell you how often the conversation at meals has been about an

Annexe wedding, should the war last another five years. Do we take any notice of this parental chit-chat? Hardly, since it's all so silly.

Have my parents forgotten that they were young once? Apparently they have. At any rate, they laugh at us when we're serious and they're serious when we're joking.

If only his parents would stop acting so strangely. It's probably because they don't like seeing me so often; Peter and I certainly never tell them what we talk about. Imagine if they knew we were discussing such intimate things.

I'd like to ask Peter whether he knows what girls look like down there. I don't think boys are as complicated as girls. You can easily see what boys look like in photographs or pictures of male nudes, but with women it's different. In women, the genitals, or whatever they're called, are hidden between their legs. Peter has probably never seen a girl up close. To tell you the truth, neither have I. Boys are a lot easier.

How on earth would I go about describing a girl's parts? I can tell from what he said that he doesn't know exactly how it all fits together. He was talking about the "Muttermund", but that's on the inside, where you can't

see it. Everything's pretty well arranged in us women.

* Cervix

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1944
Peter helps me through many a rough patch and rainy day!

I honestly don't know how much he loves me and whether we'll ever get as far as a kiss; in any case, I don't want to force the issue! I told Father I often go and see Peter and asked if he approved, and of course he did!

It's much easier now to tell Peter things I'd normally keep to myself: for example, I told him I want to write later on, and if I can't be a writer, to write in addition to my work.

I don't have much in the way of money or worldly possessions. I'm not beautiful, intelligent or clever, but I'm happy, and I intend to stay that way! I was born happy, I love people, I have a trusting nature, and I'd like everyone else to be happy too.

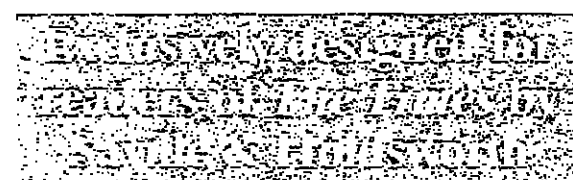
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1944
Everything is still so difficult. I long so much for him to kiss me, but that kiss is taking its own sweet time. Does he still think of me as a friend? Don't I mean anything more?

I can't. I simply can't forget that dream of Peter's cheek, when everything was so good! Does he have the same longing? Is he just too shy to say he loves me? Why does he want me near him so much? Oh, why doesn't he say something?

I've got to stop, I've got to be calm. I'll try to be strong again, and if I'm patient, the rest will follow. But — and this

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CHANGING TIMES

relationship with Peter van Daan moves from friendship to a new level of intimacy



Anne, left, with her father, Otto, and elder sister, Margot, in 1941 and, right, with Margot. "Peter knows everything; when I said that Margot and I weren't very well informed, he was amazed. He offered to enlighten me, and I gratefully accepted."

is the worst part — I seem to be chasing him. I'm always the one who has to go upstairs; he never comes to me. But that's because of the rooms, and he understands why I object. Oh, I'm sure he understands more than I think.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1944
Last night at eight I was sitting with Peter on his divan and it wasn't long before he put his arm around me. "Why don't we move over a little," I said, "so I won't keep bumping my head against the cupboard." He moved so far over he was practically in the corner. I slipped my arm under his and across his back, and he put his arm around my shoulder, so that I was nearly engulfed by him. He held me firmly against him, my left side against his chest; my heart had already begun to beat faster, but there was more to come. He wasn't satisfied until my head lay on his shoulder, with his on top of mine. Oh, it was so wonderful. I could hardly talk, my pleasure was too

intense; he caressed my cheek and arm, a bit clumsily, and played with my hair. Most of the time our heads were touching.
"I can't tell you, Kitty, the feeling that ran through me. I was too happy for words, and I think he was too."
"At 9.30 we stood up. How I suddenly — the — right movement. I don't know, but before we went downstairs, he gave me a kiss, through my hair, half on my left cheek and half on my ear. I tore downstairs without looking back, and I long so much for today."

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1944
Do you think Father and Mother would approve of a girl my age sitting on a divan and kissing a 17-year-old boy? I doubt they would, but I have to trust my own judgment in this matter. It's so peaceful and safe, lying in his arms and dreaming, it's so thrilling to feel his cheek against mine, it's so wonderful to know there's someone waiting for me. But, and there is a

Sometimes I think my terrible longing for him was over-exaggerated. But that's not true, because if I'm unable to go to his room for a day or two, I long for him as desperately as I ever did. Peter is kind and good, and yet I can't deny that he's disappointed me in many ways. I especially don't care for his dislike of religion. Still, I'm firmly convinced that we'll stick to our agreement never to quarrel.
One of the many questions that have often bothered me is why women have been, and still are, thought to be so inferior to men. It's easy to say it's unfair, but that's not enough for me; I'd really like to know the reason for this great injustice!

In childbirth alone, women commonly suffer more pain, illness and misery than any war hero ever does. And what's her reward for enduring all that pain? She gets pushed aside when she's disgraced by birth, her children soon leave, her beauty is gone. Women, who struggle and suffer pain to ensure the continuation of the human race, make much tougher and more courageous soldiers than all those big-mouthed freedom-fighting heroes put together!

I don't mean to imply that women should stop having children; on the contrary, nature intended them to, and that's the way it should be. What I condemn are the system of values and the men who don't acknowledge how great, difficult, but ultimately beautiful women's share in society is.
I believe that in the course of the next century the notion that it's a woman's duty to have children will change and make way for the respect and admiration of all women, who bear their

burdens without complaint or a lot of pompous words.
SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1944
I think about Peter much more than I do Father. I know very well that he's my conquest, and not the other way around. I created an image of him in my mind, pictured him as a quiet, sweet, sensitive boy badly in need of friendship and love. I needed to pour out my heart to a living person. I wanted a friend who would help me find my way again. I

accomplished what I set out to do and drew him, slowly but surely, towards me. When I finally got him to be my friend, it automatically developed into an intimacy that, when I think about it now, seems outrageous. We talked about the most private things, but we haven't yet touched upon the things closest to my heart. I still can't make head or tail of Peter. Is he superficial, or is it shyness that holds him back, even with me? But putting that aside, I made one mistake: I used intimacy to get

closer to him, and in doing so, I ruled out other forms of friendship. He longs to be loved, and I can see he's beginning to like me more with each passing day. Our time together leaves him feeling satisfied, but just makes me want to start all over again. I never broach the subjects I long to bring out into the open. I forced Peter, more than he realises, to get close to me, and now he's holding on for dear life. I honestly don't see any effective way of shaking him off and

getting him back on his own two feet. I soon realised he could never be a kindred spirit, but still tried to help him break out of his narrow world and expand his youthful horizons.
● Taken from *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler, to be published by Viking on February 6, price £16. ©The Anne Frank Fonds, Basle, Switzerland 1991, English translation by Susan Massotty ©Doubleday 1995.

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Should the President be exposed?

Gary McDowell on the Supreme Court and Clinton v Paula Jones

Gladstone once described the American Constitution as "the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man". Later this year, Bill Clinton will find out if he agrees. Some time before the end of June, the Supreme Court of the United States will decide the case of *William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones*. The oral arguments were heard on Monday. The issue is whether the President is immune from civil lawsuits while in office.

This suit is one of the most salacious ever to involve a President, either before or after leaving office. Mrs Jones has claimed that while an employee of the State of Arkansas, she was spied by the then Governor, approached by his bodyguard who informed her that the Governor said she "made his knees knock", and escorted to a room at the Excelsior Hotel by the dutiful drone. What happened next is what is to be settled in the sexual harassment suit.

According to Mrs Jones, Mr Clinton groped and fondled her, and finally dropped his trousers, exposed himself and invited her to "kiss it". She declined, she claims, and left the room. Mr Clinton's only response to the allegations has been that he does not remember doing such things. She insists she can prove it in court by describing certain "distinguishing marks" on the President's private parts. If the case goes ahead, it will eclipse even the O.J. Simpson trial as a cultural landmark.

Unfortunately for the prurient, the Supreme Court is not concerned with those interesting details. Its focus is on whether the Constitution provides presidential immunity from civil suits. Clinton argues that a President besieged by lawsuits would be unable to carry out the duties of his office. Yet Mrs Jones's compelling claim that plaintiffs deserve their day in court, regardless of who the defendant might be, is also well rooted in the American legal tradition. Justice delayed may indeed be justice denied.

The Supreme Court might come down either way. Even though the justices are political creatures, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, their life tenure means they are beholden to no one. As President Harry Truman once put it, "once you put a man on the court, he ceases to be your friend".

Several of the justices have well-known views on the importance of an independent and energetic executive within the Constitution's scheme of separated powers. Ironically, they are the justices appointed by the last two Republican Presidents, Reagan and Bush. Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas may well conclude that the inherent constitutional powers of the presidency demand that Mrs Jones's lawsuit be postponed. If these three stick together, as they

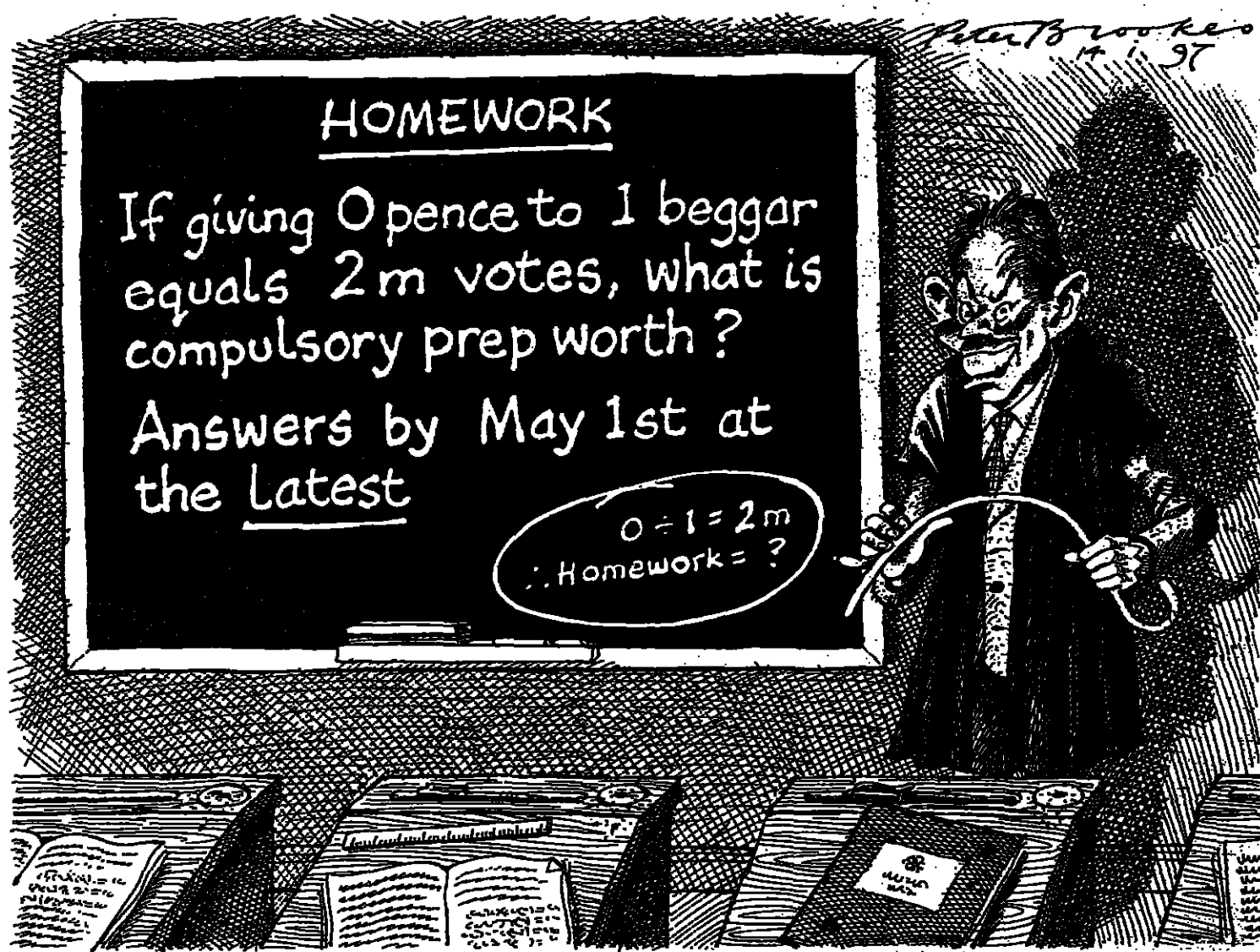
often do, and are able to persuade the two other Reagan-appointed Associate Justices, then the President will prevail with a 5-4 decision. However, there are precedents that might channel the court toward Paula Jones's claim. The most striking is the Watergate decision, *United States v Nixon*, which demanded the tapes be turned over to the Special Prosecutor, and led ultimately to Nixon's resignation. The issue then was whether a President's communications in the Oval Office are protected under the doctrine of executive privilege. Like the doctrine of presidential immunity being claimed by Clinton, executive privilege is a power of the presidency inferred from the constitutional design but not explicit in the Constitution.

In the Nixon case, the Court held that while executive privilege was a reasonable inference, it was not absolute and did not apply in the case at hand. The demands of the judicial process in a criminal trial took precedence over general claims of presidential privilege. It is no great leap from that logic to the issues raised by Clinton v Jones. The Court may once again hold that the legitimate claims of the judicial process outweigh presidential privilege. No doubt many of Mrs Jones's conservative supporters would delight in the symbolism of Clinton being hit with the very club that felled Nixon.

However, there is a twist. Of those who were on the Supreme Court in 1974, only Chief Justice Rehnquist remains. And in the Nixon case, he excused himself because he had previously served as Assistant Attorney-General for legal counsel in the first Nixon Administration.

The President has a great deal to worry about, however Clinton v Jones is decided. That is but one of many ethical troubles hanging over the White House. Judge Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel investigating who is White-water (which now includes several other areas of inquiry), is likely to begin issuing new indictments at any moment, possibly reaching as high as the First Lady, Hillary Clinton. Moreover, the allegations of campaign finance irregularities look increasingly serious. And even if the Supreme Court should agree that the President is entitled to immunity from lawsuits while in office, Mrs Jones is not going to go away. She will eventually have her day in court and the world will finally have a better idea of what took place in the Excelsior Hotel back in 1991.

The more enduring question, however, and the most important issue at stake in Clinton v Jones, is whether the presidency will be constitutionally stronger or weaker as a result of the case. The answer could affect the exercise of presidential power and leadership both at home and abroad. The author is director of the Institute of United States Studies in London.



Tough talk wastes lives

The fashion for 'zero tolerance' is just as intolerable as intolerance

All together now, narrow your eyes, square your shoulders, raise one fist and repeat the magic words. Tough, uncompromising, discipline, clampdown, enforcement, curfew, homework! Push it through ruthlessly, no holds barred! No half-measures, no excuses, zero tolerance. String 'em up! That's the only language they understand.

Harshness, as a fashion editor might put it, is the new navy blue. Simply essential. No longer is barking intolerance the private hobby of beet-faced old colonels in the remotest shires. Just as tweed jackets and jodhpurs periodically become City fashion, so a mania for discipline has swept across the most unlikely terrain. This spring's essential ideological accessories are the authoritarian bark, the slap of hunting-crop on powerful thigh, the satisfying *snapp!* of the no-nonsense mantrap.

As the election creeps closer, tough talk and expressions of ruthless intolerance are a political craze. The competition is to be harsher-than-thou, and put shark-infested water between yourself and accusations of wet liberalism. Goodbye Mr Chips, hello Mr Gradgrind; goodbye Dock Green, hello Singapore. The Ship of State right now is represented by the prison hulk *Resolution*, to be moored in Portland Harbour amid a tangle of razor-wire. For, as Professor Charles "Underclass" Murray told us in *The Sunday Times* with modish glee, "Prison does work if it is used with sufficient ruthlessness". Up and at 'em, sir! Thrash 'em within an inch of their lives, then ask questions!

No politician can afford to be left out. If Mr Major says beggars are an eyesore, Mr Blair must invoke zero tolerance and brag that he never gives a bean. Whereon David MacLean must demand they be hosed off the streets. If the Conservatives get tough with teachers, belabouring them with bossy directives and then accusing them of feigning ill-health to get early retirement, it is no longer instinctive for Labour to take their part, however cautiously. Instead, we must have a spiel from Tony Blair explaining how fierce he would be with underqualified heads, and how Labour would set homework at a national minimum of 90 minutes. He has not yet promised shock troops with powers to break into your house and check that children don't finish in 85 minutes, but give him time. If nobody dare be seen with his fists

unclenched, proper debate and democracy are at risk. The new Police Bill — containing unprecedented and startling powers of secret surveillance — has been opposed by Liberal Democrats and by senior lawyers, but only now is the main opposition party raising muted, unwilling resistance to it. Labour has also been strangely silent about the plans to build secure units for 12 to 14-year-old children who are repeated, rather than violent, offenders, with opaque windows, strip cells, minimal family contact and staff trained in security, not childcare. One peep of alarm at this and Michael Howard would cry "soft on crime!" and the game would be up.

To a degree, this tendency has always been present in Britain. One MP I know, a gentle philosopher, once vowed never again to go on *Any Questions* because of the predictable way that you could raise a cheer by "lifting your voice at the end of a sentence advocating severity towards children, criminals or dogs". But this goes farther: it is now considered electoral suicide to express even the smallest, most apologetic compassion, tolerance, or libertarianism. These are now dirty words.

The craze spreads ever outwards: rifling idly through the past week's newspapers I find tough talk everywhere. The security industry has invented face-mapping CCTV cameras that can recognise convicted shoplifters and alert the management to chuck them out, whether or not they are acting suspiciously. Hired security firms are brought in to break up road protest camps, and local authorities brag of giving draconian powers to car-clampers, who then behave as unreasonably as they like. Meanwhile everyone must tell tales: the National Union of Teachers tells its members to report any parents who use their vouchers to go to private nurseries (and guess who might later have trouble getting into their choice of state school? Snooping in general is a growth activity, with

100 anonymous telephone lines now enabling citizens to zero-tolerance one another over everything from benefit fraud to breaking hospice bans.

Back at Westminster, everybody agrees to be tough with Europe, with examination boards, A-level candidates, scroungers, hooligans. BBC interviews and one another. Labour has hired a chap from Australia to gather information so it can get tough on Tory candidates who do dreadful things like going to nightclubs or fail to have girlfriends. Zero tolerance! If you spot a head, any head, above the parapet, slap it down.

Or, at least, pledge to slap it down. The amazing thing is that in the main we are complete and utter weeds, and so are our leaders. Like the Wizard of Oz we roar our threats through a megaphone behind a

rickety screen. Look closer and you will find that the British — Tories and all — are a dreadfully sentimental, hesitant, marshmallow-hearted, kindly lot, obsessed with the most unlikely "victims" and "traumas" and demanding counselling for every real and imagined slight. Most of this tough talking, in Westminster and out, is pure bluster. Just as the cable who says "string 'em up" would be unwilling to take over the criminal justice system and personally man the gallows, few of these verbal muggers have the stomach for action. They may press, demand, inveigh, expose, tell tales, express "passion", issue guidelines or even mess about a bit with legislation; but when it comes to the crunch they do not want anything much to change. Tough talk is cheap and instantly effective; tough action is complicated, strenuous, often expensive, and leads to moral and practical dilemmas where bluster is no longer of any use.

For an example, take the two main parties' carbon-copy pledges to sweep every kind of disorder from the streets. Ask the police in King's Cross whether that is possible. They will laugh at you. If any government really wanted the police to enforce the

letter of the law at all times, it would have to increase their numbers and their cell capacity enormously and — equally important — cut savagely back on the absurd amount of paperwork that now accompanies any arrest or caution. The burden of form-filling and report-writing is now so heavy (largely because of the Whitehall hunger for statistics and the police dread of being sued) that no copper with a sense of self-preservation is ever going to use vigorous enforcement when persuasion and a blind eye will just about do.

And secretly, of course, this is the way politicians want it. They know that any real "clampdown" or "zero tolerance" would cause the very press that has bayed for action to find itself outraged and writing the policies being whithering tales of poor young lads and cruel policemen and public money "wasted" by police on "persecuting" innocent citizens. I suppose you could say that this evens out into a moderate, pragmatic approach to policing, but it seems a long (and risky) way round to get there.

It is the same in every field: education, administration, law enforcement, economics. Intelligent action is slower, more careful, more complicated and far less interesting to watch than wild bluster. But, because of the infernally slow approach of this election, we are stuck with bluster. It is one, more reason to wish it over.

I know I always come back to schoolchildren, an obsession brought on by seeing so much of them. But I am irresistibly reminded of an experiment conducted at a former and not very good school by a group of my son's contemporaries. They were bored with being constantly told in Assembly about the importance of tidiness and pride in the uniform, especially in the matter of polished shoes. They decided being "given printed cards of such rules in early round with them. So they tried not polishing their shoes for a whole term, just to see what happened.

As they had suspected, it was all Assembly hot air and prospectus puffery. Not one teacher ever noticed or commented, still less went to the trouble of enforcing and supervising a polish in break-time. They were all too busy diving off to the staffroom, said the children. So nothing changed, except that the children's respect for the staff sank even lower. Remind you of anything?

Europe's Eastern sceptics

Anatole Kaletsky says integration has failed before

What is the future of Europe? integration or disintegration? Over the weekend I was asked to address this question at the Central European University in Budapest, before an audience of 60 newspaper editors and proprietors from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Naturally, I objected to the way the question was phrased. Are integration and disintegration the only possibilities for Europe? There are plenty of other rhetorical pairings: centralisation or decentralisation; uniformity or diversity; rigidity or flexibility. Or let us try something more dramatic: imperial oppression versus national liberation.

A shocked murmur went round the audience when I spoke these words. These people had been fighting for generations for national liberation — not only from the Soviet Union, but before that from the Nazis, the Habsburgs, the Ottomans, the Kaisers, the Mongols and the Tsars. The European Union is infinitely more benign than any of the previous efforts to unite all or part of Europe: it is liberal, prosperous, peaceful and more or less democratic. But does this imply that people who have fought for centuries for the right to call themselves Hungarians, Latvians, Poles or, for that matter, Frenchmen or Germans, will suddenly start to think of themselves as Europeans?

In Western Europe the answer is clearly no. France, Italy and Spain, to say nothing of Britain and the Scandinavian countries, have fought tooth and nail for their national interests in Brussels. Even in Germany, where pan-European idealism is the norm in political rhetoric, the EU has been presented as a natural extension of Germany's benign ideals: an orderly, regulated, federal system of social partnership closely modelled on the postwar German State.

All this is familiar enough, but what surprised me in Budapest was the growing confidence of the Central Europeans. They too now feel that they have legitimate national aspirations and can demand adjustments from the EU to suit them. Countries where unregulated small businesses are providing nearly all of the new jobs and economic growth are suddenly starting to worry about the costs of complying with Brussels regulations. The East Europeans are disillusioned by Western Europe's economic sclerosis. They contrast Europe's abject failure to bring peace to Bosnia with America's success.

Europe — and Germany in particular — no longer looks like the shining beacon of hope. And now that Germany is making it ever clearer that it will keep Eastern Europe out of the agricultural single market in order to protect Bavarian farmers, the Hungarians and Poles are gaining the confidence to say that they will have full EU membership or none at all.

As soon as the question of joining Europe becomes a matter of cost-benefit analysis rather than historical inevitability, much bigger questions follow. If EU membership no longer looks necessary for national survival, is it as desirable as everyone had assumed? If countries like Poland, Hungary and even tiny Slovenia begin to feel they might be able to survive as independent nations in a peaceful Eurasian continent why should they subsume themselves once again in a superstate? Perhaps they would do better by sheltering under the Nato military umbrella, negotiating global arrangements for freer trading and their seeking their fortunes in the wider world?

If the rapidly growing countries of Eastern Europe, which have contributed as much to our common culture as any other continental region, are likely to remain outside the core of Franco-German integration, there may be huge implications for other peripheral regions of Europe: Scandinavia, the Mediterranean and the British Isles. Britain, in particular, might do both itself and Eastern Europe a favour by standing aside from Franco-German integration, and so adding to the influence, power and the average prosperity of the European periphery to which it historically and geographically belongs.

That English is now clearly and unequivocally the *lingua franca* of Eastern as well as Western Europe, adds another powerful dimension to the case for Britain to welcome the creation of a flexible, diverse and deregulated European periphery around the more highly ordered and integrated Franco-German core.

It is probably now pointless for Britain, Poland or any other country to try to impede or dissuade the Germans, French and Belgians from creating a tightly organised European superstate. But the countries that stand back from European integration need not deny their European cultures or put their backs on Europe. Amongst who has studied calculus — one of the unquestionable and universal achievements of European culture — should know that disintegration is not the only antonym of integration. In calculus the opposite of integration is differentiation. In history, as in mathematics, both these processes are difficult but hugely stimulating.

Damn dames

GREASEPAINT is running at the Janus Theatre Group in Peterborough, where they are having to dump Paul Stone, who recently alleged a relationship with Jerry Hayes, MP, from his role as pantomime dame.

Stone, who is said to be buying a flat in London with the proceeds of his newspaper deals, was due to star in *Puss in Boots* next month, having played Widow Scratchitt in *Sinbad the Sailor* last year. "I thought I'd better get in touch after all this," he said yesterday, "so I contacted them only to be told I'd been replaced. I think it's a bit naughty but I suppose it's understandable."

Stone was speaking from the offices of his public relations adviser, Max Clifford, who was recovering from his dust-up on the *Kilroy* show with the MP Roger Gale.

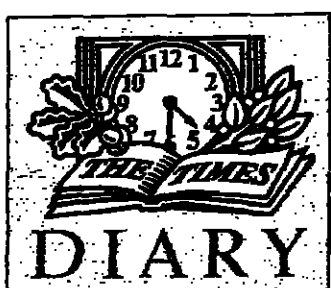
Clifford, a fit man who plays tennis and swims regularly, had allegedly tried to punch Gale just before the show was due to go on air, although he denies this: "I was just disappointed that the show did not have Jerry Hayes and David Mellor on it so I could argue with them," he said. "And I find Roger

Gale repulsive. Everybody thought I was going to have a go at him and people were trying to pull me back. I was very angry but I just wanted to square up to him and look him in the eye."

Touring the world with his new film of *Romeo and Juliet*, Baz Luhrmann, the Australian director, found himself standing at the



"Is there any chance of your rejoining the England team, Bishop Sheppard?"



back of a cinema preview of his movie in Sydney. Another man sidled up behind him on the back wall. "Mate you're a bit bored too, eh?" said the man. "I can't stand all this Shakespeare stuff. Didn't want to see it at all. My wife dragged me along." Before a dumb-struck Luhrmann could reply, the man had wandered out.

Losing track

PERSISTENCE overcame prudence in Denmark the other day when a man sank four vehicles trying to cross a frozen ford. First off, his car went through the ice at Augustenborg, 120 miles southwest of Copenhagen.

The water was shallow, so he was able to get out. Then he tried to pull the car out with a four-wheel-drive vehicle, but that promptly

sank too. He tried again, this time with a tractor, but it stuck too. Farmers were obviously keen now to lend him tractors, so summarily another he drove that onto the ice as well. Guess what? The ice cracked and this tractor was also sunk. National rescue services spent seven hours undoing the mess.

Wrong one

HARD LUCK case of the day is Jane Winder, the director of One World Action, a Third World development agency founded by



Michael Bates loyalist

Glenns Kinnock. Winder has misdirected her CV to a Liberal Democrat MP, "Dear Don Foster," she writes, "though clearly meaning to address Derek Foster, the senior Labour MP for Bishop Auckland, rather than Don Foster, the Lib Dem MP for Bath." Brenda Dean has advised me to send you a copy of my CV. When Labour is elected I hope that there will be opportunities for supporters to serve on public bodies and would be very glad if my name could be considered. So much then for all of Labour's pious criticism of the Tories for appointing sympathisers to their quangos.

My report yesterday of how Darcy Russell danced thrillingly at the Royal Opera House on Saturday despite suffering the flu had her cast in Swan Lake, not The Sleeping Beauty, as was the case. The flu has clearly got to PHS too.

Pole vaunt

EAGEREST beaver among the ministerial class has to be Michael Bates, MP, who was recently appointed to replace David Willets as Paymaster General. When asked what he would like in the way of decoration for his office, he asked for a Union Jack on a pole, so he can sit in front of it in traditional African dictator fashion. The



Jemima and Sulaiman

Department of National Heritage supplied him with the ornament.

A mere two weeks after arriving in his native country, and six weeks after his arrival in the world, Master Sulaiman, the son of Imran Khan and Jemima Goldsmith, has already visited his local barber in Lahore. In keeping with Islamic custom, his head was shaved last week at a ceremony in the family home.

P.H.S.



A BILL TOO FAR

Judges, not chief constables, should safeguard rights

Moderation in the pursuit of justice can be a virtue. Few politicians have been as energetic in overhauling the criminal justice system as Michael Howard but his zeal in the right cause has led him into error. Although the most clamorous opposition has been directed at the Crime (Sentences) Bill, which received its third reading yesterday, it is a different piece of legislation that is flawed. Mr Howard's proposals for mandatory minimum sentences are a measured response to public disquiet with the prevalence of violent crime and the punishment dispensed by the courts. A similar determination to balance the scales of justice after years skewed in favour of the criminal is held to justify the Police Bill. It does not. The Bill, in its present form, trespasses too heavily on British traditions of liberty. It must not pass, unamended, into law.

The Bill will allow the police to force entry and install surveillance equipment in order to gather evidence — to "bug and bungle". The extension of similar powers to law enforcement agencies in America significantly helped in the fight against racketeering. Such powers could, properly exercised, help to combat organised crime here. Without proper guarantees, however, these powers could be abused by a police force tempted to stretch the law too far in its desire to ensnare the criminal.

By allowing senior police officers to authorise forced entry without application to a judge, the Bill unacceptably erodes the division between the pursuer of the criminal and the upholder of justice. Officers under pressure to apprehend are bound to be less sensitive to the rights of the individual than a judge. The retrospective scrutiny promised is not enough. The arguments for issuing a warrant should be tested in front of a judge, not run under a chief constable's nose.

The Bill's defenders maintain that the legislation simply puts on a statutory basis a practice already commonplace among government agencies but governed only by executive discretion. That is not so. The

Police Bill would render evidence admissible which, if acquired by similar means at the moment, could not be used in open court. If evidence gained by such exceptional means is to be admitted in court rather than reviewed in private, then the propriety of acquiring it covertly should be considered by a judge, not decided by the police.

Those who support the Bill also argue, in its defence, that the operational good sense of a senior officer is to be preferred to the wisdom of a judge. They maintain that courts in the past have not exerted themselves to check the police's appetite for acquiring evidence by all available means. Since the Police and Criminal Evidence Act allowed officers to request the handover of journalistically acquired material, such as footage of rioters, the courts have routinely acquiesced in police applications.

Such an argument betrays a misunderstanding of the rule of law, by looking at outcomes not processes. It also misses the main point. The very fact of having to apply to a judge before police officers can indiscriminate applications. Even if judges are inclined to extend the benefit of the doubt to the police, the act of asking should ensure that the police attempt to exercise their powers sparingly.

The Bill is flawed not only in delegating to chief police officers the authority to exercise powers so intrusive but also in allowing them such broad grounds in justification. As drafted, the Bill permits the police to deploy these powers in fighting "serious" crime. But it defines what is serious in a manner so loose as to invite abuse. Parliament must ensure that the Bill reaches the statute book with the nature of the crimes which justify such exceptional powers carefully delineated so the courts can ensure that measures designed to pursue criminal Napoleons are not disproportionately deployed. The power, resourcefulness and malice of organised criminals require an imaginative response but should not provoke an excessive one. The Police Bill is, as it stands, a Bill too far.

ANGOLA'S AGONY

The prospects of improvement are real but slim

The visit by Diana, Princess of Wales, to Angola comes at a critical moment in this devastated country's attempt to end its long agony. In nine days, Angola is due to form a government of national reconciliation to bring together the MPLA Government of President dos Santos and UNITA, the former rebel group led by Jonas Savimbi. Yesterday Thabo Mbeki, the South African Deputy President, flew to Luanda to brief the Government on the meeting last week between Mr Savimbi and President Mandela — the first time the guerrilla leader has agreed to hold talks with the new rulers of the country that used to provide him with arms and covert support. And in the next few days there are hopes that some 70 UNITA MPs, elected in the 1992 election, will finally take their seats in the Luanda Parliament.

This flurry of diplomatic activity has been bolstered by outsiders. Britain has promised to do what it can to bolster the fragile peace. Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, met Mr dos Santos last week. The European Union has offered \$17 million in humanitarian aid. And the Princess has, by her visit, drawn attention to the scourge of some 12 million landmines, more in number than the total population of Angola, which maim about 25 people a day and have ruined huge tracts of valuable farming land.

Yet the chances for peace remain slim. The abiding distrust between the Government and UNITA led to the breakdown of the earlier ceasefire. Mr Savimbi, who still dreams of absolute power, was largely to blame for the

fighting after 1992, when he refused to accept the election results. The conflict has laid waste entire towns, with hundreds of thousands of civilians dying of starvation or from bombardment. Mr Savimbi has good reason to fear that he and his supporters would be massacred in Luanda. Darkening the outlook further is the incompetence, venality and corruption of the dos Santos Government. No figures are available, but aid agencies and United Nations observers reckon that the President and his cronies have embezzled at least \$4 billion of the country's oil income.

This bleak picture may soon get worse, for the UN is due to pull out its 6,600-strong force next month. Almost all Angolans forecast a rapid return to civil war, especially if there are no elections to underpin a new government of national unity with popular legitimacy. The UN operation has achieved a measure of stability in the past two years. Currently the largest in the world and including Britons in the verification and ceasefire observation units, it is leaving because it has run out of money. Only a small token force will remain — too small to be of use and depressingly similar to the original UN mission. Without stability, mine clearance cannot easily go ahead, nor can landless farmers be fed or employed. Until that happens, the economic and political ruin of a potentially rich country will remain incurable. If the UN aborts its mission half-done, it might as well have washed its hands of Angola in the first place. The country's suffering will continue.

LOBSTER CHECKOUT

What happens when the claws go scampering down the aisle?

Supermarkets are democratic benefits. They pile the luxuries of the world into the plastic bags of the shopper. But in the case of lobsters, supermarkets are lacking a luxury that is problematic as well as rare. Their debate about whether to sell live lobsters makes animal welfare campaigners see red.

Although banned by Moses, probably on hygienic grounds for a nomadic desert tribe, the lobster has been a delicacy for many ages and cultures. But the unhygienic danger of a bad lobster makes cooks recommend that it be bought live and then killed. Since Mrs Beeton they have insisted that lobsters be plunged alive into boiling water. "Choose those that are full of motion, which is an indication of their freshness."

This recipe was practicable in great kitchens and for less squeamish societies. Roman gourmets added spice to their meal by watching lobster and red mullet change colour in their death throes. But this more sensitive age rightly deplores cruelty to creatures, even those which, because of cannibalistic tendencies, cannot be farmed. Modern kitchens are ill-equipped with fish-kettles and weights to keep their lids on. And cooks are distressed by the turbulence made by a lobster and the hiss of air escaping from its carapace in what sounds like a scream.

A humane method of cooking lobster would ease the tender conscience while still gratifying the taste. The proposal that lobsters be rendered insensible in the equivalent of a slowly heating sauna raises the question whether anybody would prefer

to be fried slowly rather than plunged into boiling oil. The British Universities Federation for Animal Welfare recommends freezing lobsters to death before boiling. A celebrated Oxford professor has devoted time and skill to inventing a painless lobster-killer. This would work, fittingly, by pinners made to electrocute the central nervous system of the lobster. The difficulty in less expert kitchens would be the same as with trepanning by skewer. Amateurs, separated from the methods that bring their food to the supermarket, would not know where to locate the lobster's nervous system, and might lack the resolution to make the plunge.

And will lobsters in the supermarket have a "kill-by" date? On which antenna will their bar codes be marked? How will the checkout cashier cope with an item as full of crustacean motion as recommended? And what panic will break out when the ragged claws escape to scuttle down the aisle? At least there is no prospect of meat being sold on the hoof in the supermarket, yet.

When asked why he walked a lobster on a blue ribbon in the Palais Royal, Gérard de Nerval replied: "I have a taste for lobsters. They are peaceful, serious creatures. They know the secrets of the sea. And they don't bark." Shoppers with a less refined taste for lobsters may soon find them in Waitrose as well as the Palais Royal. But those who prefer to turn a blind eye to their diet should get an assistant to do the deed. This will still be done by plunging the lobster into boiling water. But behind the counter.

Party loyalties and the Police Bill

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, and others

Sir, The Police Bill now before the House of Lords (letters, January 8 and 10) makes provision to regulate the use of intrusive surveillance techniques by the police and Customs. Clause 9(1) provides: "No entry on or interference with property or wireless telegraphy shall be unlawful if it is authorised under this section."

An authorising officer — normally a chief constable — may authorise any such action if he or she thinks that it is likely to be of substantial value in the prevention or detection of serious crime and that the objective cannot reasonably be achieved by other means. There is a wide definition of "serious crime" which refers, for instance, to conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Police and Customs bugging operations are presently governed by administrative arrangements of dubious validity, so, in principle, statutory regulation is welcome. But the exercise of the power needs firm and clear safeguards. The most obvious safeguard is that the power should be authorised only by a judge and not by a police officer, however senior.

That is why Lord Rodgers of Quarry Bank (letter, January 10) moved an amendment in the House of Lords, requiring an exercise of the power to be authorised by a circuit judge.

We believe that this part of the Bill, if it were allowed to stand as now worded, represents a serious threat to the liberties of the citizens of Britain.

We believe that this is not just a party issue. Many Labour peers were unhappy that they were instructed not to support Lord Rodgers' amendment. We hope that the strength of criticism of Clause 9 and its obvious inconsistency with the European Convention on Human Rights will persuade the Labour leadership to change its position.

Many individual peers taking the Conservative whip will recognise that Clause 9, as it now stands, runs counter to the best traditions of their party. We hope that both they and the cross-benches will support the amendment. It needs to be passed by a majority large enough and broad enough to persuade the Government to accept it.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER (President),
DAVID IVE (Chairman),
WILLIAM GOODHART,
Liberal Democrat Lawyers
Association,
26 Erskine Hill, NW11,
January 10.

Immigration rules

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office

Sir, Your correspondents Ruth Gledhill and Michael Gove (January 10) reflect earlier reports suggesting that there had been a change of policy with regard to Scientologists who may seek to enter the United Kingdom as ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders.

I should like to clarify the position. There has been no change. The Government's position remains as stated by the then Home Secretary in 1980. Scientology is not regarded as a religion for the purposes of the immigration rules. Scientologists will not therefore qualify under those provisions of the immigration rules relating to ministers of religion, missionaries or members of religious orders.

Yours sincerely,
TIMOTHY KIRKHOPE,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
January 10.

Public grief

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, Murders of young people are, unhappily, not rare in our society and the suffering of parents is unimaginable to most of us.

I do, however, wonder if it really is necessary for those truly wretched people's grief to be put on public display by the police (report, January 8). They do not need to undergo this ordeal for all of us to want to help find the killers. Humanity surely demands help for the grieving, not for them to be on public show as the terrible nightmare engulfs them.

Your obedient servant,
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK,
124 Lady Byron Lane,
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.

Albanian opportunity

From Mr Donald J. Stewart

Sir, I find it difficult to reconcile Misha Gleny's assertion (article, January 3) that Albania, *inter alia*, suffers under the arbitrary rule of a political and economic mafia with my own recent experience in that country.

Over the past 18 months I have assisted the governing Democratic Party of Albania with its election preparations, attending meetings in many parts of the country, some of

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Diet fads, from good sense to 'bumbling quackishness'

From Dr Julia Ellis and Professor Paul J. Ciclitira

Sir, Gudrun Jonsson ("I lost weight and cleared my mind", Health, January 6) advocates food-combining to combat "toxic gut", which apparently causes obesity and constipation. No such syndrome exists. The premise that digestive enzymes needed for breakdown of proteins and carbohydrates neutralise each other, leaving foods in the gut to ferment, is untrue.

We are told that because these enzymes neutralise each other food is not digested. Were this the case the outcome would be malabsorption, diarrhoea and starvation, not obesity and constipation.

That Ms Jonsson's prescribed diet of oat cakes, vegetable stock and stir-fry vegetables leads to weight loss and increased bowel frequency is hardly surprising; it is the high-fibre, low-fat regime that most nutritionists would advocate. The combination in which food is eaten is an irrelevance.

In the article on acid balance ("Put yourself into neutral for a healthier life", January 7) the normal functioning of the healthy kidney is used to indicate poor health. The presence of acid urine indicates healthy kidney function to maintain body pH balance. There are a few rare conditions in which the kidney cannot produce an acid urine and this results in acidosis.

A consequence of this may be stripping of calcium from the bones, resulting in osteoporosis as stated, but in osteomalacia — loss of bone calcium. However, these are serious con-

ditions resulting from kidney disease or damage, not from dietary intake of "acid" foods. Such conditions require treatment by a nephrologist, not fiddling around with the diet.

By the way, in the table of bad acid foods, wheat products, especially pasta, featured largely. Deborah Bull's sensible article opposite describes how her new diet, which included large quantities of bread and pasta, has changed her life. What are your readers to think?

Yours faithfully,
H. J. ELLIS,
PAUL J. CICLITIRA,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,
January 7.

From Miss Jasmine Challis, SRD

Sir, Vegetables such as broccoli and asparagus are not rich sources of starch as your interview with Peter Bartlett (January 7) says: they contain only a trace. And to achieve the estimated average protein requirement for a man for a day would need some 4kg (9lb) of cabbage.

You quote Mr Bartlett as saying that artificial milk contains a much higher protein level than human milk and may thus cause osteoporosis in babies. But baby-formula milks are modified to mimic the protein level of human milk.

Yours faithfully,
JASMINE CHALLIS,
19 Keswick Close,
Tilhurst, Reading, Berkshire,
January 7.

Monarchy debate

From Mr Saroj K. Chakravarty

Sir, In February 1992, the Prince of Wales was invited to speak to a conference of international businessmen in Davos, Switzerland. In his speech, he appealed to all businessmen not just to make money for themselves but also for society as a whole. He was given about 20 minutes' standing ovation.

A few days later he went to New Delhi, to another conference, jointly organised by the CBI and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), at which the president of the CII paid tribute to him by saying: "The thoughts and ideas expressed by you at Davos, were those of a prophet."

Any international businessman will tell you how many billions of pounds' worth of business come Britain's way because of the involvement of the Royal Family. When foreigners love and respect them so much, why then do we the British resist sitting in judgment of them (letters, January 9, 10, 11)?

I can think of at least one reason. We are living in the age of Spitting

Image, and have no heroes. Even God comes out as a Selfridges grotto Santa. We have come to love humiliating and taking the mickey out of our national leaders and high achievers.

Yours etc,
SAROJ K. CHAKRAVARTY,
Minal,
55 The Avenue, Beckenham, Kent,
January 8.

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I can think of one way in which the Prince can improve his image at a stroke: follow the admirable examples of his mother and his mistress by putting up the shutters on the media.

That way he might not only regain respect but also some of the dignity of kingship which he lost after repeated surrenders to television. Surely there is a case for monarchs-in-waiting as well as monarchs to be seen but rarely heard.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown,
Avebury, Wiltshire,
January 12.

Oxbridge entry

From Mr Anthony Lejeune

Sir, What I find so depressing about the Oxbridge establishments' views on admissions (report, January 2) also letter, January 8) is their apparently unanimous assumption that the objective should be a completely meritocratic (in an academic sense) college.

What they should be, and are in fact, inevitably doing, is creating a community where the new entrants will be lifelong members and where young people will grow up, make friends and learn much more than appears on any lecture list.

For this purpose family and school connections, as well as other non-academic criteria, are highly relevant.

Yours etc,
ANTHONY LEJEUNE,
Lane End, Hillside Road,
Pinner Hill, Middlesex,
January 8.

European currency

From Mr J. B. MacGill

Sir, Thirty years ago, when a committee on the decimalisation of our currency had the option of choosing the pound or the ten shilling as our new major unit, they chose the pound, even though had they chosen the ten shilling all our then existing silver coins could have continued in use.

One of the reasons they gave was that they expected inflation would so reduce the value of the chosen unit that it was essential to start with as large a unit as possible. It meant that when our decimal coinage was introduced we had need of a halfpenny coin, but inflation has eliminated it, as the committee expected.

Only about 60 years ago there were

Churchill and gas

From Mr Norman Gelb

Sir, Winston Churchill's lack of "squeamishness" about possible British use of poison gas in warfare was not — as your report of January 3 might imply — confined to the First World War period.

File CAB 65/7 at the Public Record Office at Kew reveals that in the early months of the Second World War Churchill suggested to the War Cabinet that, though proscribed by international law, poison gas should be used against invading German forces if they successfully managed to land on the then thinly defended British coast. He said Britain had the right to do what it liked on its own territory.

Sincerely,
NORMAN GELB (Author,
Dunkirk, Michael Joseph, 1989),
107 Hurlingham Road, SW6,
January 5.

nearly a thousand farthings to a pound, such was the size of a pound then as a currency. Yet now Europe contemplates adopting a unit which is not even as large as our present pound. A few days ago I paid "ten shillings" for half a loaf of bread; how soon may we expect to pay ten euros?

When Chancellor Kohl suggested that the major unit of the new currency should be called a euro instead of an ecu he should have also said "and one euro will be worth ten ecus". Such a unit should last at least halfway through the next century before it may need renewing.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. MACGILL,
The Wilderness,
St George's Lane, Ascot, Berkshire,
January 1.

hundreds of rank-and-file DPA members, others purely for local and national leaders. Without exception these have been conducted in a fully democratic manner which could, to beneficial effect, be emulated in many quarters of the UK.

Since 1991 the Albanian Parliament has been drafting laws in order to regulate, from scratch, life in a democratic and orderly manner and to release the economic energies of the people. Its success, despite fears a year ago after the backtracking in other newly independent Eastern European countries, was demonstrated in last year's parliamentary and local government elections.

The latter, observed by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, amply corroborated the re-

Business letters, page 31

From Mr Robert A. Morley

Sir, You demonstrate most effectively the bumbling quackishness of food science. Of the two diet regimes featured today one requires a rigid balance between carbohydrates, fat and protein in each meal, the other insists that starch (a carbohydrate) must not be eaten at the same time as protein.

Sir, our granules had it right — and far more economically in words: a little of what you fancy does you good.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT A. MORLEY,
25 Rectory Road,
Southport, Merseyside,
January 6.

From Mrs P. Greenly

Sir, Great stress is laid these days upon the need for regular exercise, such as a short brisk walk, to ensure the wellbeing of people of mature years.

I have no quarrel with this advice provided one is able to follow it. My husband and I both suffer from arthritis, particularly in the knees and ankles, and while we would dearly like to take a daily walk, are unable to do so.

Can we in future have less emphasis on the brisk walk routine and more about general exercise to suit all people.

Yours faithfully,
P. GREENLY,
Brunton House,
175 Goldthorn Hill, Penn,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
January 10.

Adoption and fostering

From Professor Emeritus Thomas Stapleton

Sir, It is good that the question of adoption is again being scrutinised (letters, January 1, 7, 13). For many years, I have felt that there is a strong case for something in between fostering and adoption.

While the adopted child becomes the permanent responsibility of the adopting parents, usually taking their name, fostering placements can be revoked at any time. Even when placements have lasted so long as to be virtually permanent, the anxiety of removal remains.

If fostering could sometimes be made permanent, so that the child could only be removed under the same kind of circumstances that would apply to a natural-born child, many of the problems in the adoption of older children and inter-country adoptions would, in my view, be avoided. The child would retain his or her own family name, so any pretence of the child being the natural child of the carers could not occur.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
THOMAS STAPLETON,
The Foundry Cottage, Lane End,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
January 7.

Honours due

From Mr E. J. Blease

Sir, Mr Charles Swallow expresses concern (letter, January 6) that teachers are rarely in the honours lists.

Why should anyone, teacher, civil servant or industrialist, expect or indeed receive such honours for carrying out that for which he/she has probably been adequately paid, and could be in line for enhanced pensions and excellent severance deals?

Civilian awards for conspicuous acts or for unpaid, voluntary efforts by all means, but not for carrying out one side of an employment agreement.

Yours faithfully,
E. J. BLEASE,
27 Dewsland Park Road,
Newport, Gwent,
January 7.

Hands across the sea

From Mr David J. M. Buddery

Sir, Morse signalling, whether by flag, lamp or radio, remains the most reliable means of communication (letters, January 4 and 9). Unfortunately this is almost a lost art which a few enthusiasts, mostly radio amateurs, struggle to preserve.

What a pity the Radio Authority fails to encourage such use by not issuing special licences to those able to demonstrate a high standard of proficiency in this technique.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID J. M. BUDDERY
(Senior instructor,
amateur radio novices),
33 Addison Road,
Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk,
January 4.

Pride before a squall

From Dr Kenneth Swinburne

Sir, Few men will be surprised to learn that women's brain shrink during pregnancy (report, January 9). After all, women have been complaining about this for aeons.

A question of greater importance for medical scientists is whether men's brains undergo a compensatory swelling.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH SWINBURNE,
16 Foxhill Crescent,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
January 9.

Solution for Newcastle at the end of the rainbow



KEVIN KEEGAN'S departure from Newcastle United occasioned much comment about the pressures of football management. One Interactive Team Football selector — with three teams in the leading 250 — is unconcerned, claiming that he is the man to replace Keegan at St James' Park.

George Weiss, an unemployed political activist who is the leader of the Rainbow Connection Movement, said yesterday: "I have put in an offer to Newcastle United. Under me, Newcastle would be even more attack-minded than under Kevin Keegan." So forget Robson or Dalglish — Weiss is the man.

The outspoken Weiss, whose pedigree includes being a former political ally of Screaming Lord Sutch, has offered Newcastle £50,000 to give him the job for a week on a trial basis. With Jackie Milburn as his boyhood idol, how can Sir John Hall refuse? The weekly winner in ITF was Mr F. Murray, of Glasgow. His team, the Aberdeen Row, scored 51 points this week, with notable contributions from Jorge Cadete, the Celtic forward, and Tommy Burns, his manager. The overall leader is John Hunt, of Taunton, back at the top after a short hiatus.

If your team could be doing better, you can use the ITF transfer system which allows



Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward, scored two goals against Coventry. His recent form demands selection



you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01532 488 122.

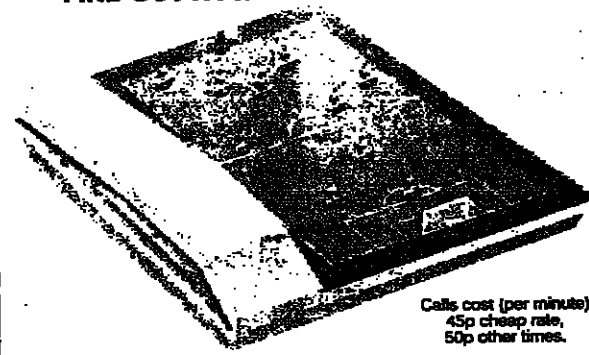
THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	451
2	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	443
3	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	443
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	443
5	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	443
6	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	443
7	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	443
8	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	443
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98	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
99	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
100	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	451
2	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	443
3	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	443
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	443
5	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	443
6	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	443
7	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	443
8	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	443
9	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
10	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
11	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
12	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
13	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
14	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
15	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
16	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
17	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
18	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
19	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
20	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
21	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
22	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
23	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
24	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
25	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
26	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
27	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
28	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
29	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
30	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
31	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
32	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
33	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
34	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
35	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
36	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
37	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
38	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
39	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
40	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
41	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
42	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
43	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
44	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
45	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
46	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
47	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
48	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
49	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
50	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
51	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
52	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
53	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
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58	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
59	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
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61	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
62	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
63	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
64	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
65	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
66	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
67	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
68	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
69	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
70	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
71	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
72	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
73	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
74	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
75	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
76	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
77	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
78	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
79	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
80	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
81	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
82	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
83	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
84	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
85	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
86	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
87	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
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90	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
91	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
92	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
93	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
94	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
95	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
96	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
97	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
98	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
99	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443
100	John Hunt Taunton	(J Hunt)	443

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
68=	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	3
68=	Garforth Seahawks	(I Doughty)	3
73=	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	3
73=	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	3
75=	Wheat Machine	(P Ford)	3
75=	Caroline B	(A Luckhurst)	3
75=	Nobby 20	(J Brown)	3
78=	Enid 2	(J Hagger)	3
78=	Scholes For Goals	(K Scott)	3
78=	Joking	(P Falter)	3
81=	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	3
81=	4 4 2	(K Browne)	3
81=	Turner's Earners 3	(P Turner)	3
81=	Bown's Boys 20	(P Bown)	3
84=	Thorn Footley FC	(M Horan)	3
84=	Concrete Banana	(S Mingle)	3
84=	Nobby 23	(J Brown)	3
88=	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swirles)	3
88=	Uni Boys Unit 1	(S Gardiner)	3
90=	Aggsparhus 10	(W Hewlett)	3
92=	Inter The Unicorn	(P Barnett)	3
92=	Inter The Walllet	(M Ward)	3
92=	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	3
92=	RKV 3	(C Vaneaze)	3
92=	Theddy Three	(B Bear)	3
92=	Parick Bilbao 3	(J Hamerton)	3
92=	1st Elott	(K J Burns)	3
98	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	3
99=	Raj Is Back To Kill B	(R Gohil)	3
99=	Dynamo Mlrs	(S Miller)	3
99=	Bob's Boys 3	(P Calder)	3
99=	Animals	(L Clark)	3
99=	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	3
104=	Alexia FC	(A Stilleano)	3
104=	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swirles)	3
104=	CUOK	(G Weiss)	3
104=	Gestalt	(R Rowe)	3
104=	Nobby 25	(J Brown)	3
104=	Nobby 12	(J Brown)	3
110=	PJB Rovers	(P J Butler)	3
110=	Oct95-ITF Champ	(M Sladden)	3

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

DAY JANUARY
OF
VIDEO
ON
HOW TO ENTER
CHANGING



Andersen, of Rangers, in action against Aberdeen on Saturday. His two goals boosted his ITF tally to 31 points

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Points	Value
0101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 4	
0102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 14	
0201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1 - 26	
0202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0 - 0	
0203	J Ludd	Arsenal	0.75	0 - 10	
0301	M Boehm	Aston Villa	3.50	-3 - 12	
0302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0 - 19	
0401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-5 - 11	
0402	S Givens	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-3 - 4	
0501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-3 - 4	
0502	S Kerr	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0 - 1	
0601	D Kharina	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-4 - 15	
0602	K Hinchcock	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 - 20	
0701	F Groves	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-3 - 13	
0702	S Ogrizovic	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-7 - 20	
0801	J Fian	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 0	
0802	M Taylor	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 - 0	
0901	R Hout	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-1 - 15	
0902	A Maxwell	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 14	
1001	L Key	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 10	
1002	I Westwater	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-5 - 39	
1101	N Southall	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-8 - 12	
1102	P Gerrard	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 - 1	
1201	G Rousset	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-4 - 21	
1202	J Loughran	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-3 - 19	
1301	D Lennan	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-12 - 31	
1302	M Beatty	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 - 0	
1401	P Evans	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0 - 0	
1402	N Martyn	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-5 - 17	
1501	K Poole	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 - 6	
1502	K Kellie	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-5 - 18	
1601	D James	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+15 - 20	
1602	A Warner	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 0	
1701	P Schmeichel	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1 - 17	
1702	R van der Grint	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 - 15	
1801	G Walsh	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-1 - 20	
1802	A Miller	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 - 23	
1901	S Howie	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-1 - 20	
1902	J Hirst	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	-2 - 2	
2001	P Sisto	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 - 0	
2002	M Crossley	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-5 - 26	
2101	A Fattis	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0 - 0	
2102	T Wright	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0 - 0	
2201	S Thomson	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 25	
2202	A Gorman	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+15 - 22	
2301	K Pressman	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-1 - 13	
2302	C Clarke	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 0	
2401	D Southall	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 - 28	
2402	N Moss	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 - 19	
2501	C Woods	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0 - 19	
2502	M Taylor	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+4 - 14	
2601	L Perez	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-5 - 16	
2602	A Cotton	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 - 9	
2701	I Walker	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	-3 - 5	
2702	E Saunders	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 0	
2801	J Mearns	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+4 - 18	
2802	S Mouton	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 - 0	
2901	N Sullivan	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-1 - 1	
2902	P Heald	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0 - 0	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Points	Value
30101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 4	
30102	L Dixon	Aberdeen	3.00	0 - 20	
30201	S Winterburn	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 22	
30202	S Mearns	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 1	
30301	S Sturton	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 26	
30302	A Wright	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 26	
30401	G Charles	Aberdeen	2.50	0 - 0	
30402	P King	Aberdeen	0.25	0 - 0	
30501	F Nelson	Aberdeen	3.00	-2 - 24	
30502	H Berg	Aberdeen	3.00	+4 - 17	
30601	G Le Seur	Aberdeen	3.00	+4 - 17	
30602	M Kelly	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 16	
30701	G Croft	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 16	
30702	J McInnes	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 16	
30801	T McKinnley	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 16	
30802	D Petrus	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 16	
30901	S Clarke	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 7	
30902	S Minto	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 7	
31001	D Butcher	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 7	
31002	B Borrows	Aberdeen	1.00	-3 - 8	
31101	M Hall	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 4	
31102	R Genux	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 2	
31201	C Powell	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 3	
31202	D Yates	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 4	
31301	P Parker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 4	
31302	M Milpas	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 4	
31401	N Duffy	Aberdeen	0.50	-7 - 22	
31402	C Miller	Aberdeen	0.25	-7 - 22	
31501	A Tod	Aberdeen	0.25	-7 - 22	
31502	M Hottiger	Aberdeen	2.50	0 - 4	
31601	A Hinchcliffe	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 14	
31602	T Phelan	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 14	
31701	E Barrett	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 14	
31702	G Leake	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 14	
31801	N Poulton	Aberdeen	1.00	-1 - 2	
31802	W Miller	Aberdeen	1.00	-1 - 2	
31901	A Dow	Aberdeen	1.00	-1 - 2	
31902	G MacPherson	Aberdeen	0.50	-5 - 15	
32001	K Kelly	Aberdeen	3.00	+4 - 18	
32002	A Dorog	Aberdeen	2.50	+4 - 18	
32101	P Beasley	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 0	
32102	A Hall	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 0	
32201	M Whitlow	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 4	
32202	S Grayson	Aberdeen	0.50	-2 - 14	
32301	N Lewis	Aberdeen	0.50	-1 - 3	
32302	F Rofling	Aberdeen	0.25	0 - 0	
32401	R Jones	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 0	
32402	S Harkness	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 0	
32501	S Blomley	Aberdeen	0.50	+4 - 37	
32502	S Blomley	Aberdeen	0.50	+4 - 37	
32601	P Neville	Aberdeen	3.00	0 - 28	
32602	G Neville	Aberdeen	3.00	0 - 28	
32701	N Cox	Aberdeen	1.50	-1 - 13	
32702	C Morris	Aberdeen	0.75	0 - 4	
32801	C Fleming	Aberdeen	0.25	-3 - 1	
32802	C Fleming	Aberdeen	0.25	-3 - 1	
32901	S McMillan	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 4	
32902	W Barton	Aberdeen	3.00	0 - 1	
33001	S Watson	Aberdeen	3.00	-1 - 15	
33002	J Elliott	Aberdeen	2.50	-1 - 1	
33101	J Beresford	Aberdeen	4.00	+7 - 13	
33102	S Pearce	Aberdeen	2.00	+4 - 14	
33201	D Lytle	Aberdeen	1.00	+4 - 15	
33202	A Laidland	Aberdeen	2.00	0 - 4	
33301	M Jarkam	Aberdeen	0.75	0 - 8	
33302	P Bonar	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 6	
33401	D Kirkwood	Aberdeen	2.50	+3 - 18	
33402	D Robertson	Aberdeen	2.50	+3 - 18	
33501	J Brown	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 18	
33502	J Nolan	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 18	
33601	P Atherton	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 4	
33602	S Nicol	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 4	
33701	D Stanovic	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 0	
33702	L Briscoe	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 0	
33801	J Dodd	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 5	
33802	F Bernal	Aberdeen	0.75	-4 - 10	
33901	S Charlton	Aberdeen	0.75	0 - 1	
33902	M Kubicki	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 4	
34001	D Scott	Aberdeen	0.25	+4 - 15	
34002	G Hall	Aberdeen	2.00	-1 - 3	
34101	D Austin	Aberdeen	2.00	-1 - 16	
34102	C Wilson	Aberdeen	1.00	-2 - 9	
34201	J Edinburgh	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 0	
34202	P Kerseke	Aberdeen	1.00	-1 - 4	
34301	S Carr	Aberdeen	4.00	+4 - 18	
34302	J Dicks	Aberdeen	1.00	+4 - 18	
34401	T Brecker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 0	
34402	K Stewart	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 0	
34501	M Bowen	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 0	
34502	K Brown	Aberdeen	0.50	0 - 0	
34601	B Thatcher	Aberdeen	1.50	0 - 3	
34602	A Kinable	Aberdeen	0.75	+3 - 13	
34701	K Cunningham	Aberdeen	0.75	0 - 0	
34702	D Jupp	Aberdeen	0.25	0 - 18	
34801	C Perry	Aberdeen	1.00	0 - 8	

		Pos.	
		Pos.	
30205	S Marshall	1.00	0 - 0
30301	G Southgate	3.50	-1 +15
30302	U Ehiogu	3.00	-1 +37
30304	C Tiler	1.00	-1 +11
30305	R Scimeca	1.00	-1 +15
30401	C Hendry	4.00	+4 +21
30402	I Pearce	2.50	0 - 0
30403	C Coleman	2.50	0 - 0
30404	N Markar	0.50	0 +2
30501	T Boyd	3.00	+4 +18
30502	M Mackay	1.50	+4 +9
30503	A Stubbs	3.50	0 +11
30504	B O'Neill	3.00	0 +2
30601	M Daberry	2.50	-1 - 1
30602	F Labouret	2.50	-1 +20
30603	F Sinclair	2.00	-2 - 4
30604	D Lee	2.00	0 +3
30605	A Myers	1.50	-1 +5
30606	E Johnson	1.50	0 +10
30701	L Dalsh	2.00	-3 +5
30702	R Shaw	1.50	-3 +2
30801	I Stimpac	2.50	0 - 5
30802	D Wassell	1.00	0 - 0
30803	P McGeehan	2.50	0 - 1
30804	J Laurson	1.00	0 +8
30901	M Carbon	0.50	0 - 1
30904	S Pressley	1.00	0 +36
31001	M Miller	0.75	0 - 3
31002	I Don Beman	0.75	0 - 18
31101	D Unsworth	2.50	0 +11
31102	D Watson	2.50	-2 +11
31201	C Short	1.50	0 +1
31202	D McPherson	1.00	-1 +10
31301	P Ritchie	1.00	-2 +13
31302	J McLaughlin	0.50	0 - 4
31401	G Walsh	0.75	-2 +10
31402	G Hunter	0.50	-2 +4
31501	M Kelly	1.00	-5 - 4
31502	R McGovern	0.50	0 - 1
31601	D Wetherall	2.50	+3 +17
31602	R Johnson	1.00	0 +2
31701	L Radebe	1.00	0 +8
31702	J Pemberton	0.50	0 - 0
31801	S Walsh	1.00	0 +6
31802	J Watts	1.00	0 +9
31901	P Karmark	1.00	0 - 1
31902	S Price	1.00	-2 - 3
32001	P Babo	3.50	0 +20
32002	M Wright	3.50	0 +22
32101	N Ruddock	3.00	+1 +14
32102	D Matteo	1.00	+4 +21
32201	G Pallister	3.50	0 +2
32202	D Willy	3.00	0 +28
32301	R Johnson	2.50	0 +28
32302	N Pearson	1.50	0 - 9
32401	S Vickers	1.50	0 - 10
32402	M Whyte	1.50	0 - 12
32501	P Whelan	0.75	0 - 4
32502	M Martin	0.75	0 - 4
32601	M van der Gaag	0.75	-1 - 2
32602	P Albert	4.50	+1 +15
32701	S Howey	3.00	0 +7
32702	D Peacock	3.00	-1 +16
32801	C Cooper	3.00	+4 +8
32802	S Chellie	2.50	+4 +8
32901	S Blatherwick	1.00	0 - 5
32902	S Dennis	1.00	-1 - 25
33001	R Gough	3.50	+4 +38
33002	A McLaren	3.00	+4 +7
33101	J Bjorklund	3.50	+4 +21
33102	G Petric	2.50	+12 +1
33201	J Newsome	2.00	0 +6
33202	D Walker	1.50	0 +20
33301	G Lingham	0.25	0 - 0
33302	A Neilson	1.00	-3 - 1
33401	R Dryden	0.50	0 +1
33402	C Lundekvam	0.50	0 - 14
33501	U van Gobel	1.50	-3 - 19
33701	A Melville	1.00	+4 +20
33702	K Ball	1.00	0 +11
33703	R Ord	0.50	+4 +19
33801	S Campbell	2.50	+1 +1
33702	J Pender	3.50	0 - 1
33802	C Caldwell	2.50	-2 +9
33803	G Webbitt	2.00	0 - 0
33805	K Scott	0.50	0 - 0
33806	S Nethercott	0.50	0 - 3
33901	S Bilic	2.50	+4 +14
33902	M Rieper	2.50	+1 +1
33903	S Potts	2.00	+1 - 2
33904	S West	1.50	0 - 0
33905	R Ferdinand	0.50	0 - 0
33901	A Reeves	1.00	0 - 0
33903	A Pearce	0.75	0 - 0
33904	D Blackwell	0.50	0 +4
33905	M McAllister	0.50	-1 +10
33906	S Fitzgerald	0.25	0 - 0

NEWS

Cost of civil justice soars

Millions of people who pursue civil disputes in the courts will find fees have more than doubled as the Government tries to make civil justice pay for itself.

Filing a divorce petition will go up from £80 to £150, compared with £40 18 months ago. The cost of lodging trial papers and asking for a date in the county courts is doubled to £100; it was free a decade ago. Page 1

Major looks back at heroic failure

John Major stood at Mitchini Point in the Khyber Pass on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, looking at the scene of one of Britain's biggest military failures. His visit came 155 years to the day after the sole survivor of a 16,500-strong British force rode to the safety of Jalalabad. The others died of starvation, cold and at the hands of Afghan tribesmen. Page 1

Millennium cutback

Organisers scaled down plans for the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, cutting the £700 million budget by a fifth. Page 1

Lobster quadrille

Live lobsters may be coming to a supermarket near you. But animal welfare activists are preparing for a fight. Page 1

Grant controversy

A grant for a charity working with transsexuals triggered fresh clashes between Virginia Bottomley and the National Lottery Charities Board. Page 2

Clifford clash

Pandemonium broke out when the publicist Max Clifford lunged at his Conservative MP critic Roger Gale at a BBC television studio. Page 3

Letter bombing

Islamic extremists were believed to be behind letter-bomb attacks in London and New York. Page 4

Golden day

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary with a Buckingham Palace garden party for 4,000 other couples who married in 1947. Page 5

Moral vacuum

The Bishop of Chester complained that children have to grow up too quickly in a culture where pop stars are let off for drug offences. Page 6

Pampered pets pensioned off in style

A \$1 million retirement home for pets is to be built in New York. The Golden Years nursing home, with its "kind to paws" heated floors, will provide care for ageing family animals with a regime including climbing ladders, free rubber balls, and gentle, twice-daily walkies. A special greenhouse-style sun trap will be reserved for "feline residents". Page 16



Demonstrators who brought public transport to a halt in Sofia found solidarity among tram passengers. Report, page 15

BUSINESS

Merger threat: British Airways insisted that its proposed alliance with American Airlines was on track, amid signs of growing opposition from Brussels. Page 27

Freemans sale: Sears has agreed to sell its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods for £995 million and plans to return £410 million to shareholders. Page 27

Interest hopes: Shares rose to near record levels on renewed hopes that interest rates may not rise after Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George meet tomorrow. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 closed up 50.7 at 4107.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell 0.4 point to 95.7 with the pound falling from DM2.6635 to DM2.6525 and from \$1.6810 to \$1.6699. Page 30

Tennis: Boris Becker, the defending champion, lost in the first round of the Australian Open. He was defeated in five sets by Carlos Moya, the beaten finalist when Tim Henman won his first ATP tour event. Page 52

Football: Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, plans to meet his Barcelona counterpart to try to persuade the Spanish club to allow Bobby Robson to take over at St James's Park. Page 52

Rugby union: Jonathan Humphreys and Neil Jenkins are recalled by Wales for the opening Five Nations Championship match against Scotland. Page 47

Crickets: Michael Atherton was dismissed for seven by a New Zealand Select XI. Page 50

Hooked on art: British sculptor Tony Cragg is still moving forward with his deft and mysterious inventions, such as a piano and chairs smothered in hooks. Page 35

It's a gift: When Janet de Botton ran out of room to house her contemporary art collection, the Tate's new gallery at Bankside gained 50 works. Page 35

Short and sweet: Thunderous applause greeted Hans Werner Henze as he took his seat for the Munich premiere of his new opera, *Venus and Adonis* — definitely a Great Occasion. Page 36

Clown prince: As the London International Mime Festival gets under way, Kenneth Rex looks at the enduring appeal of the modern clown. Page 37

First love: Anne Frank agonises over the boy of her dreams: "I'm doing my best not to chase him, but it isn't easy. I'm in a state of utter confusion: on the one hand I'm half mad with desire for him, and on the other I wonder why he should matter so much and why I can't be calm again." Pages 18, 19

Social animals: Human beings like to bustle, grumble and gossip. Working with others keeps us ticking over. Page 17

Doing your best: Will you give yourself permission to pursue what you want from life? Page 17

Calming public fears: Louis Bloom-Cooper says that giving the prosecution a say in sentencing would be preferable to Michael Howard's mandatory terms. Page 39

Shattering myths: Should women be celebrating their arrival in force in the legal profession? Page 43

Suffer the children: Many sexually abused children are being denied the psychological help they need until after legal proceedings, a delay that could cause irreparable damage. Page 43

The ruling Socialists in Sofia warn that elections would be "fatal for the economy". We can hardly blame Bulgarians who haven't taken this warning too seriously. —The Wall Street Journal

Preview: Unmarried mothers from the 1950s and 1960s in search of the children they gave up for adoption in *Network First* (ITV, 10.40pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss enjoys *McCallum* but is baffled by *Dark Skies*. Page 51

A Bill too far

The power, resourcefulness and realism of organised criminals requires an imaginative response but should not provoke an excessive one. Page 21

Angola's agony

If the UN aborts its mission half-done, it might as well have washed its hands of Angola in the first place. The country's suffering will continue. Page 21

Lobster checkout

Will lobsters in the supermarket have a "kill-by" date? On which antenna will their bar codes be marked? How will the check-out cashier cope? Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

At a new year party, I was told by a usually reliable source that there is a Conservative MP who has had his navel pierced and wears a discreet gold ring under his bespoke cotton shirt. Page 2

PETER RIDDELL

Can anyone stop Michael Howard? The Home Secretary starts the year as the front-runner for the Tory leadership in the Westminster gossip stakes. He might not win many votes in Whitehall or the Temple but this is less important than the support of the *Daily Mail* and the 92 Group. Page 12

LIBBY PURVES

It is now considered electoral suicide to express even the smallest, most apologetic compassion, tolerance, or libertarianism. These are now dirty words. The amazing thing is that in the main we are complete and utter weeds, and so are our leaders. Page 20

Duncan Wood, TV comedy producer, Lord Croft, art collector, the Very Rev Ian White-Thomson, former Dean of Canterbury. Page 23

Liberal Democrat lawyers on the Police Bill, diet fads, Monarchy debate, Scientology. Page 21

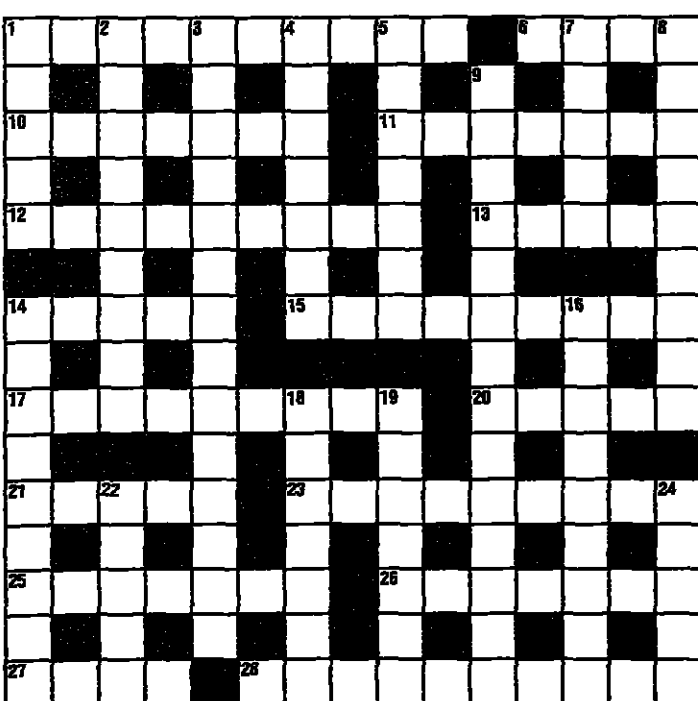
IN THE TIMES

STYLE
The new spring/summer looks — previewed by Grace Bradberry

INTERFACE
Four Epson colour printers and scanners can be won with the technology section this week



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,376



- ACROSS**
- Turner used it to represent a burnt ship (10).
 - Investigate short cut (4).
 - A queen fashionably dressed without a very old hat (7).
 - Knowledge gained from books in university (7).
 - How junk, for example, is made neat and tidy (9).
 - Without a leader, climb track (5).
 - Undressed kid can be controlled, reportedly (5).
 - Inmates of organization given promises of party (9).
 - Imprisoned endlessly, promises to pay, being crafty (9).
 - Kind of low-frequency sound given a name (5).
 - Right to keep leader of villains in stir (5).
 - Old pennies removed from quilts and covers (9).
- DOWN**
- Blueprints of aircraft needing no energy (5).
 - Symptom of skin trouble — it's sure to start around spine (9).
 - A number like pie, we hear, that is surpassing others (14).
 - Miracle-working to convert for good (7).
 - Boy harbouring desire to become a doctor (7).
 - Century not recorded for leader of English side in India (5).
 - Late shift (9).
 - Long conflicts involving father's woe — or son (4,2,3,5).
 - Scottish cattle-shelter holds key for protection (9).
 - Congential cop is at M1 interchange (9).
 - Gold piece, over a pound, is going round (7).
 - Old boy leaves thing that may be filled with jam (7).
 - Treacherous type joining two extremely eminent people (5).
 - Prospect for exhibition (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,375

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's Highest day temp: Dux airport, Aberdeen, (SC 538); Lowest day temp: Causton, Essex, (SC 416); Highest rainfall: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, 0.5in; Highest sunshine: Jersey, Channel Islands, 8 hr

NEWSPAPERS RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the new material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

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General: mist or patchy fog in England and Wales may be slow clear and in the North West it will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle. Otherwise the day should be dry and bright.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain in the north and west.

Eastern areas will start bright and mainly dry ahead of cloud and patchy light rain which will be spreading from the west later in the day.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central N, Central S England, E England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales: early frost and fog clearing. Bright with sunny periods. Winds light southerly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England: bright intervals but rather cloudy at times, perhaps with patchy drizzle later. Winds moderate southerly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: rather cloudy with rain at times, brighter later. Winds light or moderate southerly. Mild. Max 11C (52F).

NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland: mostly cloudy with outbreaks of rain or drizzle. Winds fresh or strong southerly. Mild. Max 10C (50F).

Outlook: cloudy with patchy rain crossing from the West.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
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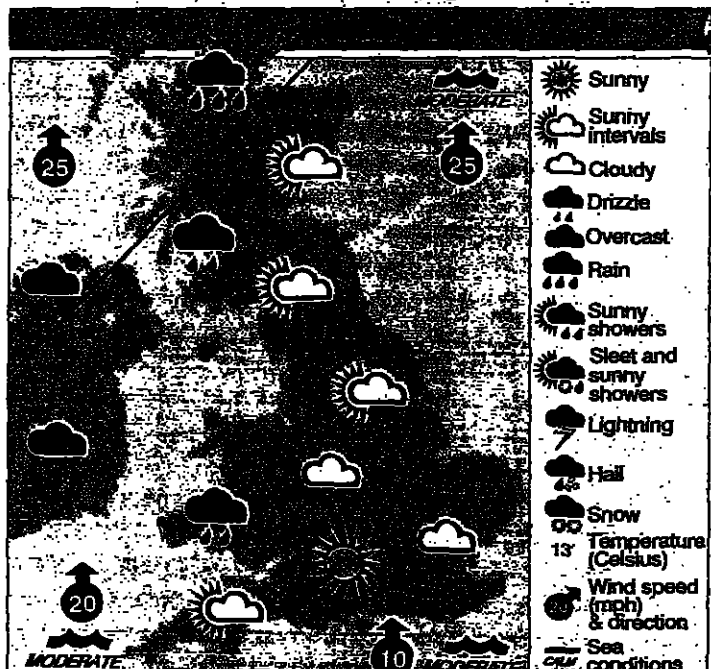
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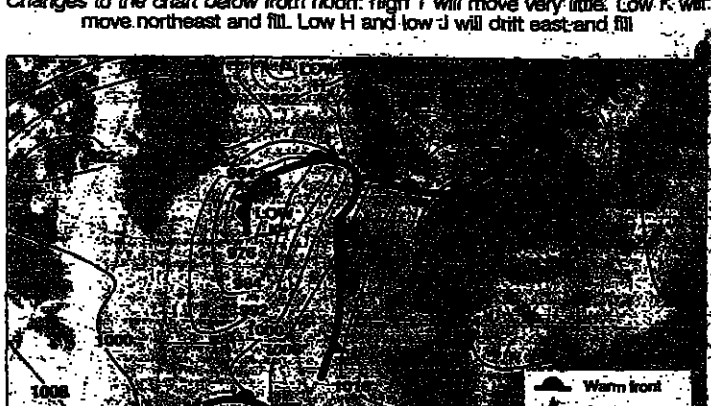
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Changes to the chart below from noon: high T will move very little. Low K will move northeast and fill. Low H and low J will drift east and fill.



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Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
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Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
Aberdeen	4.3	14	04	15
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Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
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Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Sea
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Aberdeen	4.3	14	04	15
Aberdeen	4.3	14	04	15
Aberdeen	4.3	14	04	15

THE TIMES

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TODAY



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Send in the clowns
at the London
Mime Festival
PAGES 35-37



LAW
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succeeding in
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Henman clears
first hurdle at
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

Sears hopes to pacify institutions with buyback

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM
LIAM STRONG, chief executive of Sears, the struggling retailer, sought to placate institutional shareholders yesterday by promising that the group would return £410 million to them, probably through a share buyback.

Most of the money for the buyback will come from the sale, announced yesterday, of its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods for £395 million. The rest will come from last year's sale of a Glasgow shopping centre. The Freemans deal will lead to an exceptional loss, after the write-off of goodwill, of £220 million, Sears said. This is set to

plunge Sears about £140 million into the red for the current year to January 31. Forecasts for full-year profits, which will be announced in April, were slashed from more than £100 million to about £80 million last week after Sears — which includes Selfridges, the British Shoe Corporation and the Wallis and Warehouse women's wear chains — issued a profit warning and unexpectedly poor trading figures.

Sears will have to bear some tax and pension costs from the Freemans deal which meant it is likely to receive only £358 million. The sale is conditional on the approval of Sears shareholders, which will be sought at an extraordinary general meeting on January 30. Other conditions are the agreement of Littlewoods shareholders and clearance by the Office of Fair Trading.

The success of the latest Sears move depends on the outcome of talks between the company and the Inland Revenue over whether its institutional investors can claim tax credits from a buyback, analysts said. A buyback is preferred to a special dividend because of its potential tax advantages. Leading institutional investors, many of whom have become deeply unhappy about the management of Mr Strong and would like to see him replaced, said yesterday that they were expecting to talk to Sears in the next few days. "We are very fed up, but we want to see how the numbers add up before we make any decisions," said one. The problem of finding a replacement is giving Mr Strong some protection, analysts said. A spokeswoman for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, holder of nearly 12 per cent of Sears, said it would keep "an open mind" on Sears's management before meetings with the company this week. Mr Strong said: "The sale of Freemans is the most significant step in the simplification and focusing of Sears. During the last four years we have exited from 23 businesses including house-

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	4107.3 (+50.7)
FTSE All Share	n/a
Nikkei	18118.79 (+815.14)
New York	6717.55 (+13.85)
S&P Composite	760.71 (+1.21)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.50% (5.50%)
Long Bond	95.50% (95.50%)
Yield	6.85% (6.85%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month Interbank	6.50% (6.50%)
Libor long gilt	100.00% (100.00%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5727* (1.5801)
London	1.5682 (1.5803)
DM	2.8514 (2.8517)
FF	8.9455 (8.9778)
Sfr	2.3004 (2.3114)
Yen	194.05 (194.77)
£ Index	96.7 (96.1)
DOLLAR	
London	1.5918* (1.5859)
DM	5.3688* (5.3508)
FF	1.3788* (1.3780)
Yen	116.49* (116.13)
£ Index	95.3 (95.0)
Tokyo close Yen 116.18	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Mar)	\$22.50 (\$22.65)
GOLD	
London close	\$359.05 (\$359.10)
* denotes midday trading price	

European opposition to BA link intensifies

BRITISH AIRWAYS insisted that its proposed alliance with American Airlines was on track yesterday, despite signs of growing opposition from the European Commission. BA said the final word on the deal rested with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in London.

Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, has written to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, expressing his concerns. He said the agreement would constitute "an abuse of a dominant position" and questioned whether it met the conditions for the granting of an exemption under European law.

BA and American would together speak for more than 60 per cent of flights between the UK and US, and account for nearly 70 per cent of the important London-New York run. Mr Lang announced last month that he would refer the alliance to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission unless suitable undertakings were given. These included giving up 168 weekly take-off and landing slots at Heathrow — the equivalent of 12 flights a day. The undertakings had to be enough to remove competition concerns, and allow an exemption to be granted under European law.

Rival carriers say BA should be forced to give up a far greater number of slots at Heathrow — perhaps 400 or more — and should not be financially compensated. Each pair of slots could be worth £3 million, potentially leaving BA with a huge "war chest" at its disposal.

Mr van Miert has fueled the debate, saying selling slots is not permitted under European Union civil aviation regulations. Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner, has expressed a similar opinion. Mr van Miert indicated that he would refer the alliance to the European Court of Justice if Mr Lang took a contrary view. BA insisted yesterday that the European Commission could not ultimately interfere with the decision-making process. Under Article 89 of the

Treaty of Rome, the decision rests with the competent regulatory authority. In this case, the DTI. The DTI has the right to refer the alliance to the European Commission, but cannot ultimately overrule the DTI. It could challenge whether the UK authorities had acquitted themselves satisfactorily under European law, but whether it would go to this extent remained to be seen. BA says there is nothing under European law to say that slots cannot be bought, sold or swapped. It says airlines have been doing it for years, and points to Heathrow, where more than 40 new carriers have started operations in the past five years. Rivals such as Continental, United and Delta were fiercely critical of the preliminary OFT proposals.

Whether the BA/American alliance proceeds depends on three separate strands. On Friday, the two airlines formally applied to the US Department of Transportation (DOT) for anti-trust immunity. Without this, they will be unable to co-ordinate their passenger and cargo services. The process normally takes about 90 days.

Officials assembled in Washington on February 4 for the next round of talks aimed at clinching a new bilateral air services agreement between the UK and US. The last round was held in London on December 6. This "open sides" agreement must be clinched before BA/American can proceed. The final word rests with Mr Lang. Friday was the last day for submissions from carriers opposed to the alliance. The OFT will consider the submissions and pass its recommendations to Mr Lang, who will in turn announce his decision. The process is expected to take some weeks.



Allen Lloyd stands to make £35 million from Gehe's takeover of Lloyds Chemists

Gehe wins Lloyds Chemists

GEHE, the German pharmaceuticals company, yesterday won the year-long fight for Lloyds Chemists after UniChem finally conceded defeat. The British bidder decided not to increase its offer and instead sold its 9.7 per cent stake in Lloyds to Gehe (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Lloyds Chemists recommended Gehe's 525p-a-share, £684 million final offer. It said that all of its board, including Allen Lloyd, founding chairman and holder of 5 per cent

of the chemist-shop company, would accept Gehe's terms. Mr Lloyd stands to make more than £35 million from the deal. His wife, Marilyn, who sold three million shares at 450p in May, could have made an extra £2.25 million if she had hung on to the end. During the day, Gehe swept up 57.5 per cent of Lloyds shares, taking its holding to 78.4 per cent. Jeff Harris, the chief executive of UniChem, said: "UniChem believes that it was

in shareholders' interests to pursue Lloyds Chemists, but we are not willing to overpay for it." He added: "We will continue to follow our strategy of developing UniChem as a leading healthcare company."

UniChem said that staging the bid cost it £14 million in all. It yesterday made a £35 million profit on selling its Lloyds shares. UniChem shares closed up 13.5p at 569.5p. Lloyds fell 1.5p to 525p. Pennington, page 29

Shares soar as fear of interest rate rise recedes

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE London stock market surged to near record levels yesterday on renewed hopes that interest rates may not have to rise after tomorrow's monetary meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 50.7 points higher at 4,107.3, near its record in December of 4,185. Shares were given a double boost by another set of subdued industry price figures and a survey which found the Christmas season had been a "tail-biting time for retailers" which fell far short of 1980s-style boom conditions.

Producer input prices — the cost of raw materials — fell 0.5 per cent in December — 5.9 per cent lower than a year ago. In November, the year-on-year fall was 5.2 per cent. Output prices rose 0.5 per cent in the month, cutting output price inflation to 1.7 per cent from 2.1 per cent in November. Michael Saunders, of Salomon Brothers, noted that this was the lowest rate since the oil price collapse in the mid-1980s.

Underlying output prices, which exclude food, drink, tobacco and petroleum products, rose 0.1 per cent in the month to give a year-on-year increase of 0.8 per cent. This is the lowest rate for this series since the late 1960s. Mr Saunders said these figures suggest that underlying retail price inflation will fall to within the Government's 2.5 per cent or less target range this year if sterling does not weaken. He still expects base rates to go up modestly, but probably not until February.

The latest Retail Retail Consortium survey of retail sales was also interpreted as strengthening the Chancellor's hand if he wants to resist pressure from the Bank of England for a rate rise at tomorrow's meeting. The BRC said December had a poor start, recovering only in the last days before Christmas and in the sales. The value of sales in December rose 4.3 per cent compared with a year ago, indicating slower growth from October's 5.9 per cent and November's 4.9 per cent. Andrew Higginson, BRC economic affairs committee chairman, said: "There is no evidence of a boom, and the retail market remains highly competitive, keeping price increases in check. On the basis of these figures there appears to be no justification for an increase in interest rates."

Andrew Sentance, chief economic adviser to the BRC, said the figures prove that the current recovery is very different in character from the late 1980s. "Concerns that an inflationary consumer boom is emerging seem well wide of the mark," he said. Providing potential ammunition for the Bank, however, is the latest report from Incomes Data Services, the pay analysts, published today. This shows that pay deals have remained steady at between 3 and 4 per cent but that there is increasing pressure on pay negotiators. Some pay disputes have required substantial rises to secure a deal. The report said the recent upturn in inflation had set a more difficult background for pay bargaining in the first few months of the year. "Pay bargaining may be much tougher in 1997 and pay settlements may be pushed higher by rising inflation."

Hilton and Ladbroke sign tie-up agreement

By OLIVER AUGUST

HILTON HOTELS, the American group, could buy a stake of up to 20 per cent in Ladbroke, owner of the Hilton brand outside the US, at a cost of up to £550 million, it was announced yesterday.

The share purchase is seen as a natural progression from the tie-up signed by the two hotel groups yesterday. Hilton will acquire a five per cent stake in Ladbroke following US regulatory approval, expected within a few days. Ladbroke said it would not buy a reciprocal stake in Hilton because US companies pay low dividends and cash is needed for other investments. Details of the tie-up — expected to last 20 years, with a 10-year renewal option — show that co-operation will focus on worldwide marketing, reservations and a loyalty programme. Stephen Bollenbach, Hilton's executive president, said: "The idea is to get as many points of contact as possible."

He did not rule out a formal merger in the future but said that this presented huge problems for the two groups. "We have talked about it," he said. Both groups deem themselves to be too small to buy the other outright without harming their healthy credit ratings. And a transatlantic share swap was considered too difficult.

Share prices

Share prices listed on page 33 may not reflect the closing prices because of difficulties at the supplier of the data.

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English China Clays International is to shed 300 jobs, a tenth of its payroll, blaming competitive pressures. The jobs will go mainly in the St Austell area of Cornwall.



Harry Stokes, a Datamonitor analyst, said: "New entrants in the UK banking market have brought new products and new technologies which are proving successful in attracting the customer. Banks are now on the defensive."

vanced Photo System (APS) and will employ 400 people. Richard Bruton, Minister for Enterprise and Employment, said that as well as the direct employment of 1,000 people, the combined Eastman Kodak investments will create another 1,000 jobs down the line.

On its unlisted with-profits business CU maintained annual bonuses at 8 per cent for pensions and 6.5 per cent for bonds. Sales of the Classic Investment Bond and its successor, the Premier Investment Bond, totalled £350 million last year. A £10,000 lump sum invested in February 1992 would be worth £14,097 now, the company said.

AIRBUS Industrie partners yesterday put their names to the agreement that will make the European aircraft consortium a stand-alone company by 1999.

THE trial of Yasuo Hamanaka, the former Sumitomo copper trader, will begin in Tokyo on February 17. Hamanaka faces forgery and fraud charges in connection with an estimated \$2.6 billion in losses allegedly run up over a ten-year period from unauthorised trades. Hamanaka will deny that he manipulated world copper markets, concocted fictitious trades or received any personal benefit from his transactions, his lawyers said.

ANNUAL inflation in the European Union fell to 2.2 per cent in November, the lowest level since the EU's statistics service began compiling the figures in 1983. The new figures show a 0.2 percentage point fall from October. In November the rate stood at 3 per cent, compared with 3.3 per cent for the United States and 0.1 per cent for Japan. Sweden recorded a fall in consumer prices, with inflation of minus 0.3 per cent. Greece had the highest inflation level, at 7.7 per cent.

CARDIFF PROPERTY, the investment and development company specialising in the Thames Valley area, enjoyed a 9.1 per cent rise in net asset value to 264p a share, from 242p, in the year to September 30. The value of assets improved 7 per cent to £8.8 million, from £8.2 million. Profits rose 15.6 per cent to £292,533 before tax, while earnings rose 13.2 per cent to 7.7p. There is a 1.95p final dividend, making a total of 2.85p (2.75p). The shares were unchanged at 195p.

SERVOMEX, the industrial instrumentation group, is acquiring Montec Holdings from Northumbrian Water for £3.8 million. Montec, which designs and manufactures sampling equipment, monitoring stations and flow measuring instruments for water utilities, incurred an £887,000 loss in the year to March 31 and is estimated to have lost £3.2 million in the nine months to December 31. This loss mainly reflects the cost of significant restructuring.

PWS Holdings, the specialist reinsurance broking group, held pre-tax profits almost unchanged at £753,000 in the year to September 30, compared with £728,000 despite facing severe margin pressures from intense competition in international insurance markets. Earnings were 1.65p a share (1.52p). The interim dividend rises to 0.65p a share, from 0.5p. Peter Smith, managing director, said the company did not expect margin pressures to ease in the foreseeable future.

RAYTHEON looks set to buy Hughes Electronics, the defence arm of General Motors, with a bid of \$10 billion, leaving its rival Northrop Grumman to face an uncertain future (Richard Thomson writes).

shares — and Raytheon is financially stronger than Northrop. Since GM is taking at least \$6 billion of the purchase price in the shares of the winning bidder, the overall cash value of the bids was not the deciding factor. To avoid a hefty tax bill GM will have to hold the shares for several years.

Raytheon strengthened its hand last week with the \$3 billion purchase of the defence division of Texas Instruments. With the addition of Hughes, which has annual revenues of \$6.2 billion, it will be the dominant US group supplying surface-to-air.

cruise and anti-ballistic missiles. Raytheon becomes the third largest defence group after Lockheed Martin and Boeing. But Northrop now has few opportunities to expand rapidly through acquisitions.

Although it continues to build airframes and supply electronics to larger companies, it no longer builds aircraft after the ending of the B2 bomber programme. It won a small consolation prize in being appointed by the Pentagon as part of a consortium to build a new missile-carrying warship that could lead to multi-billion dollar orders.

[illegible]

oots report

مَكْذُوبٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

□ Which utilities count as monopolies? □ Mathematics behind the Sears fiasco □ Eleven uses for an old oil rig

Windfall tax not such a breeze

THOSE of us who suspect that the next couple of months are going to be no fun at all had further evidence yesterday. The debate on a utilities tax was ill-informed even by the degraded standards of today's political climate.

Listen to this contribution from someone called David Davis at the Foreign Office. "Even if a Labour government risked a legal challenge and imposed the windfall tax, Yorkshire families need to know the costs," he thundered. A peculiarly insular view, you might think, especially from the FO, except that Mr Davis represents Boothferry, once within the old Ridings. He has a majority of 17,535, but you can't be too careful, can you?

The theory that a Labour windfall tax could be challenged in the European court that Labour seems so fond of is an amusing whimsy, but little more. It is doubtful whether the relevant legislation actually allows such a challenge. Gordon Brown's lawyers seem pretty certain it does not.

It is also doubtful whether, even if the legislation allows a challenge, a Labour government would be minded to pay the court much heed. The £3.5 billion being raised is such a huge chunk of Labour's financial needs that its loss would be a bill too steep to pay. And what better way of establishing Mr Blair's

Euro-sceptic credentials than fighting for the creation of jobs for the young unemployed, and against a Euro-court backing the rights of fat-cat utility bosses?

But there is one huge problem for any windfall tax, over and above the decision on how to levy it. This last is difficult enough: most measures, such as by profits earned, penalise successful enterprises. Even more difficult is deciding on which companies the tax can be applied. It should theoretically only be on monopolies — except that there are precious few left.

British Telecom is no longer a monopoly, and a huge levy would merely be a gift to Mercury and others, by hampering BT's investment plans. Even if you regard BT's network of wires as a monopoly, there are still cellular phones.

BAA is not a monopoly at least while Luton and Schiphol are open for business. The three power generators are self-evidently not; tax them for "excess profits" earned in an oligopoly, and you should tax the four big beer barons, too. There are only four true

monopolies: the regional water and electricity companies in England and Wales — this lets the Scots off the hook — the National Grid, and British Gas's Transco pipelines. The first three have accepted that there will be a tax if Labour gets in. Set it at the modest levels they are expecting, and you might get away without too much opposition.

But if the tax is, and is seen to be, unfair and inconsistent, those companies disadvantaged have no choice but to go to law. One appreciates Mr Blair's personal interest in finding work for the legal profession. But he should resist the temptation.

A Strong and Constant decline

HERE is a question for the mathematically minded: how much is £410 million worth? Is it worth (a) £410 million (b) £223 million, (or c) £200,000. The answer is all three.

Let us explain. The £410 million being handed back to Sears shareholders is worth exactly that amount plus 4.5 per cent if



PENNINGTON

they put it in the building society. And it is worth a little more than half that amount if left with the Sears management to do with it what they will.

This is an application of what mathematicians call the Strong Constant, a number representing how much of any given investment can be frittered away over time by Liam Strong and his pals. When he became chief executive, on Valentine's Day 1992, the shares were worth £1.

Put the equivalent amount on the FT All-share index, and you would end up today with 162p. Yesterday's bonus for shareholders raised barely a flicker, and the shares ended the day at 88p. Sears shareholders might have been better off without the

six years' work the management have put in. All those relaunches, the unsuccessful creation of Shoe Express, and the shoe shops will now have to be given away, to allow Sears to concentrate on the two areas it knows best. Selfridges and women's clothes.

A straight sale of the shoe shops would be the cleanest option, but it would require a massive write-down, and the board would probably not survive another such. The shops will have to remain in some form, as an untidy appendage in the form of a minority stake.

Selfridges is a British institution, probably immune to even the Sears management's peculiar skills. As to why women's clothes as opposed to shoes, apparently the latter is a less risky, higher margin market these days — as opposed to five years ago, when women's fashion houses seemed to be going bust all over the place but shoes looked dull but safe.

Sears shareholders will have to hope that that particular wheel does not swing around again. The cash distribution may, however, have ensured another six

months' survival for Mr Strong. In that case £410 million is worth about £200,000 — or the amount he will earn over that period.

Better Shell than Whitehall

PREDICTABLY, the more imaginative solutions for disposal of the Brent Spar oil storage buoy — notably Pennington's secret plan for a combined offshore European Commission, Court and Parliament — have not made Shell's shortlist of six contractors and 11 schemes.

Most of these seem to involve slicing up the underwater part and filling the ensuing giant steel quoits with concrete or fish. Still, the idea of Shell helping to stop coastal erosion or conserve wild food stocks must appeal to the chaps in public relations.

All such schemes are better than the original plan to sink Brent Spar in the Atlantic. Not that this scheme was desperately bad in this individual case. Despite ministers' stout denials, it was all too clearly a precedent for dumping everything else from

the North Sea into a giant underwater scrapheap. Even if each case were treated "on its individual merits", the merits of cheapness would be as compelling for dumping conventional rigs as for scuttling Brent Spar.

The scuttle remains a possibility because it is still the only solution approved by Whitehall. Anyone who still doubts the case for some of the less popular privatisations should ponder this. Had the North Sea industry remained in state control, public opinion would be ignored to appease the Treasury.

The owner should not be the regulator, whether State or private. In this case, as in the BSE affair, the State could not even be trusted as a supposedly independent regulator. The cost to the company still became paramount because much of that would be recovered in tax relief.

Over and out

WE must assume the battle for Lloyds Chemists is all over now, the Germans having no private shareholders to dissuade them from overpaying. Admittedly, the bid seems to have been going on since England last won a cricket tour, but it will in fact be a year on Saturday since the first bid was launched. It probably isn't, but this at least feels like some sort of stock market record.



Peter Wood, left, chief executive of Ellis & Everard, with John Samuel, its finance director, yesterday

FKI holding in Newman Tonks grows

NEWMAN TONKS'S

hopes of holding off a £196 million takeover bid weakened further yesterday when FKI announced it had captured 20.45 per cent of the door fittings company (Paul Durman writes).

This level of acceptance is 7.1 per cent more than FKI had last month when it launched its bid already holding irrevocable undertakings to accept from M&G and Britannic Assurance. It is rare for a bidder to make such rapid progress.

Newman Tonks is trying to defend a poor recent record that has seen a large fall in its share price.

FKI said it could not recall when a hostile bidder had so quickly won such a high level of acceptance. Newman Tonks urged its shareholders to wait for profit and dividend forecasts.

Barclays exits 3i with £42m profit

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS yesterday banked a handsome £42 million profit from the sale of its remaining stake in 3i, the £3.6 billion flagship of the investment trust sector. The sale brings the total amount realised by the bank since 1994, when 3i came to the stock market, to £183 million.

The sale also virtually ends the association of the UK clearing banks with 3i, an investment that stretches back to 1945.

With encouragement from the immediate postwar Government, UK banks and the Bank of England put up funds to back the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation to help rebuild British industry and manufacturing.

In July 1994, after various changes in investment strategy and the change of its

name to the current Investors in Industry (3i), it was decided that the shareholders should put up some or, in the case of the Bank, all of their stakes for sale to private and institutional investors. In the case of Barclays the flotation sell-off netted £46 million.

A year later a further disposal raised some £34 million, and in June 1996 Barclays cashed in shares for £61 million. Barclays said yesterday that the £42 million profit, out of gross proceeds of £59 million, would be included in the banking group's results for the first half of 1997.

The only UK clearer with a remaining stake in what has been a highly successful long-term investment is Bank of Scotland.

3i shares rose 4p to 498½ p, a 12-month high.

LLP names advisers for flotation

LLP, publisher of Lloyd's

List and other business titles, yesterday appointed NatWest Markets to advise on its flotation, which may not take place until next year (Eric Reguly writes). Cazenove has been appointed broker.

The flotation plans come a year after LLP, formerly owned by Lloyd's of London, was the subject of a buyout by its management for £82 million.

Management, including David Gilbertson, the former Lloyd's List editor who was appointed managing director of LLP last week, owns 25 per cent of the company.

Among the other investors is MAM Private Equity, the venture capital arm of Mercury Asset Management, which owns a 10 per cent stake.

Tomkins chief bemoans lack of City recognition

By PAUL DURMAN

AN ENCOURAGING debut contribution from Gates Corporation, the transmission belts company bought last year for £753 million, helped Tomkins to lift first-half pre-tax profits by 34 per cent, to £168.8 million.

However, Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, said that he was "increasingly frustrated" at the City's reluctance to acknowledge the company's progress. In spite of growing earnings and dividends, Tomkins's share price has lagged the market for several years, held back by the adverse sentiment towards conglomerates. Tomkins is commonly known as the "guns to buns" group, its manufacturing interests spanning everything from Hovis loaves to Smith & Wesson handguns.

Mr Hutchings ruled out using the group's £367 million of net cash to finance a buyback of shares, a favourite City option. He said that Tomkins can see many opportunities to invest, though the work of integrating Gates will probably rule out a big deal for another year or so. In the 27 weeks to Novem-

ber 2, sales rose from £1.73 billion to £2.16 billion, including £260 million from Gates. Excluding Gates and currency effects, the underlying organic growth in operating profits was more than 10 per cent.

Fully diluted earnings per share rose 17.8 per cent. Tomkins will pay an interim dividend of 3.06p a share, up 13 per cent, on April 11.

Gates, included for only 14 weeks, contributed a profit of £20 million. Tomkins has introduced stricter financial



Hutchings: "frustration"

controls and is spending \$30 million on new information systems. It believes that it will be able to double stock turn, releasing large amounts of cash, and hopes eventually to be able to make savings of \$12 million a year.

Tomkins is cutting costs at all Gates's 43 plants, which also make hoses and connectors. However, the company sees no need for the substantial job losses or plant closures that followed its 1992 purchase of Ranks Hovis McDougall.

Tomkins increased profits in five of its six divisions, the exception being professional, garden & leisure, where they eased to £8.5 million (£8.9 million). Sales of handguns fell back after a surge, while Murray power mowers encountered pricing pressure.

The milling & baking division lifted its contribution to £15.4 million (£13.7 million), with British Bakeries doing well. Food Products, the biggest division, increased profits to £42.6 million (£38.5 million), with good performances from ready meals and Robertson's jam.

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Chemicals firm looks to expand US stake

By FRASER NELSON

ELLIS & EVERARD, the chemicals distributor, is to target North America for its next acquisitions after its British companies helped it to return record profits for the six months to October 31.

Peter Wood, chief executive, said that after its £16.5 million of acquisitions last year, the company was turning its attention to the US where the market was much more fragmented. It is already North America's fifth-largest distributor of chemicals while commanding only 2 per cent of the market.

The company had cash of £19.7 million at the end of the six months, with gearing at 21 per cent (16 per cent). Its US operations, which make up 53 per cent of sales, delivered the strongest performance as gains in its food chemicals markets offset a slide in margins from its established caustics markets.

The strength of the pound trimmed £100,000 from its pre-tax profits, which rose 20 per cent to £15.6 million. Mr Wood gave warning, however, that the figure was likely to be £600,000 by the year-end if the strong exchange rate remained in force.

Volume gains lifted sales 8 per cent, to £319 million. Earnings were 11.8p per share (10.4p), and an interim dividend of 3.3p is due March 11.

Boots reports cosmetic boost

By ERIC REGULY

A LAST-MINUTE Christmas shopping spree spared Boots from reporting disappointing sales in what has been a generally lacklustre season on the high street.

Boots said sales were slow through most of December but rebounded in the last week, boosting group like-for-like sales 6 per cent in the last quarter of the year. Lord Blyth, chief executive, described the seasonal rally as no more than "satisfactory".

Like-for-like performance in the Boots Chemists division showed a 5.1 per cent rise, with cosmetics and personal care products proving the hottest-selling

items. Boots Opticians reported a 12.2 per cent increase while the Do It All stores appear to have left the worst behind them with a 3.5 per cent improvement.

Halfords, owner of the Bike Shop, was the only business to report a decline, with sales down 3 per cent. Boots blamed the downturn on the harsh weather, though analysts were not entirely convinced by the explanation. Pannure Gordon, the broker, said it would probably leave its full-year earnings forecast for Boots unchanged at £540 million. The shares closed up 13½ p at 625p.

Other retailers reported mixed results as the industry failed to reap the full benefits of the economic recovery. Like-for-like sales

at Next, the clothing retailer, were up 9 per cent in the 24 weeks to January 11. Sales at Next Directory, the home shopping catalogue, were 26 per cent ahead. The shares gained 12½ p to 541½ p.

Sales, excluding petrol, at Wm Morrison Supermarkets rose only 1.2 per cent in the five weeks to January 5. Fierce competition pushed petrol sales down 13 per cent in the period. Shareholders were disappointed by the trading results at Whitbread. The shares fell 21½ p, to 740p, as the brewing-to-leisure group rang up an 8 per cent increase in sales in the five-week period starting December 1.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Scottish banks take high road in stronger market

BURNS Night is looming but it seems that the Scots already have plenty to celebrate.

Shares of their own national banks were the toast of the stock market last night after they enjoyed some of the best gains of the day. Credit Lyonnais, the broker, likes the look of both Bank of Scotland, up 11.1p at 308.1p, and Royal Bank of Scotland, 11p dearer at 508.1p, ahead of next month's dividend reporting season.

Laird, which has completed much of the buying for recent strong runs by rival banks National Westminster, 10p better at 758.1p, and Barclays Bank, 15p higher at 10.82, says the Scottish pair offer good value for money.

Next month's figures from both companies should reveal a healthy increase in profits and dividends and Laird predicts that there is still further scope for improvement.

Elsewhere in the sector, Abbey National firmed 9.1p to 773.1p, Bank of Ireland 6.1p to 565p, HSBC 3.6p to 13.53p, Lloyds TSB 15p to 458p, and Standard Chartered 11.1p to 693.1p.

The rest of the equity market was able to claw back much of last week's losses on the back of technical rallies in both New York and Tokyo over the weekend and a strong bond market.

Share prices in London surged back through the 4,100 level to close at their best of the day with turnover topping one billion shares for the second time so far this year. The FT-SE 100 index finished 50.7 at 4,107.3, just 15.9 shy of its best ever.

But some parts of the market were starting to look overcooked last night, with worries about a rise in interest rates resurfacing before tomorrow's monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England.

Argos, still reflecting on its recent trading statement, fell a further 18.1p to 604.1p.

Sears was unmoved at 88p by the sale of its Freemans mail order business to Littlewoods for £395 million. Not even plans to return £410 million in cash to shareholders was enough to generate support for the shares, which now stand just 4p above their worst of the past 12 months. Last week's calls for the resignation of Liam Strong as chief executive continue to reverberate.



Lord Blyth, chief executive of Boots, which rose 13.1p

ate around the Square Mile despite suggestions that Sears may attempt to demerge its troubled shoe operations.

Brokers also had a clutch of trading statements from other retailers to contend with. Boots, whose chief executive is Lord Blyth of Rowington, responded to encouraging comments about current trading with a rise of 13.1p at 625p.

Clubpartners was steady at 2.1p. The golf course operator, one of the market's worst performers last year, has shaved off the wolves for now. It has sold the Tytherington golf club to PGA European Tour Courses for the equivalent of £1.25 million. Bid talks valuing Clubpartners at 1p a share have also ended.

Buoyant sales of health and beauty products helped to lift group sales in the third quarter to December 31, by 6 per cent. Sales over the Christmas period proved slow although there was a late surge, which has carried on through to the new year.

Next also got the thumbs up for a strong performance showing sales in the 24 weeks to January 11 up 16 per cent.

petrol, during the five weeks to January 5. The shares firmed 1p to 153.1p.

Market turnover was boosted by the news that Gehe, the German pharmaceutical distributor, has won the hotly contested battle of control for Lloyds Chemists, 1.2p easier at 525p, after its increased offer. Last week Gehe increased its terms from 500p to 525p a share, valuing the

March series of the long gilt rose 8.1p to £109.712 as a total of 41,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was 1.4p higher at £102.16, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1.4p better at £103.16.

NEW YORK: A rally in shares of J.P. Morgan boosted the Dow Jones industrial average, which was 13.86 points ahead at 6,717.65 by midday. Analysts said most investors were holding back for fourth-quarter earnings.

Closing Prices Page 33

entire group at £684 million. This topped a previous offer from Unichem. A further 74 million Lloyds' shares were traded yesterday as Gehe lifted its holding to 52 per cent. Unichem, up 13.1p at 269.1p, still holds 10 per cent of Lloyds.

Increased sales at Whitbread over the Christmas period were offset by an erosion of margins. Rising costs in its food business and take-home beer trade combined to take the shine off an otherwise solid performance which saw overall sales climb 8 per cent. The shares finished 2.1p down at 740p.

Bass put on 10p at 831.1p after a "buy" recommendation from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house. It is impressed by the defensive qualities of the shares and says they should be bought if interest rates rise.

Birse Group, the builder and civil engineer, fell 5.1p to 19.1p in belated response to a late profit warning issued after the close of business on Friday.

The market gave a lukewarm reception to half-year figures from Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate which includes Smith & Wesson guns and Ranks Hovis McDougall. The price touched 285.1p before ending 5p lower at 272.1p.

Photobition, the printer, raised 8.1p to a new high of 438p ahead of a visit by brokers later today.

GILT-EDGED: The London bond market took its lead from stronger overseas bond markets with prices at the longer end stretching to almost £1. The less than expected rise in factory gate prices cheered sentiment with investors hoping that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may feel it is enough to resist pressure for a rise in interest rates when he meets Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, tomorrow.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Ticked off over film signing

ANDREW COOK, the boss of William Cook, had his first scent of victory yesterday, in the face of the hostile bid from fellow metal-basher Triplex-Lloyd and his chief executive, Graham Lockyer.

A major shareholder had withdrawn its support for Triplex, he trumpeted, taking £1 million worth of shares out of the company's camp. To celebrate, he composed another of the snappy silver-tongued soundbites he has become so famous for. "If all Mr Lockyer can say to justify the bid is that both companies tip metal into moulds, I feel very worried for Triplex-Lloyd's shareholders," he waxed.

Easy tiger. Step forward, a rather red-faced Jim Cox, director of UK Investments at Schroders, who sheepishly explained that the merchant bank had signed its £1 million to Triplex by mistake, someone in the building "ticked the wrong box" on the acceptance form.

Snout to laugh at

CONGRATULATIONS to Cedric on the birth of her seven piglets. The sow that was curiously named after Cedric, Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, is nursing her offspring after the "fat cats" of the privatised industries. One has already been christened Desmond after Sir Desmond Pither, the United Utilities boss. The GMB general union, Cedric's owner, who revealed in this column that its prize pig was pregnant, is said to be delighted by the news.



Write off

JOHN TINER, the part-time author and head of Arthur Andersen Financial Markets since 1993, will be struggling to find time to write. He has just been promoted from head of AAFM's UK practice to head of its worldwide practice. The Bank of England investigation into the Barings collapse, investigating the \$1bn loss by Daiwa Bank in New York, recommending the way forward for the Bank of England's supervisory arrangements and assisting Imro with Deutsche Morgan Grenfell are just some of the strings to his bow.

GULF Canada be warned — Clyde Petroleum was in top form at the oil and gas industry annual quiz. But is it any wonder when you hear how easy the questions were. For example, who is president of Gulf Canada?

Hardern luck

THE impressive Michael Hardern is reeling after hearing that there is no vacancy this year on the board of Loughborough Building Society. Too bad then that the chief carpet-bagger backed Andrew Martin, a local IT manager, to stand for election. On the basis that four directors were voted in last year, three seats will be available next year, and five in 1999. Hardern is claiming that it's an incredible coincidence. Meanwhile, Geoff Caves, deputy chief executive and secretary at the Loughborough, insists: "It is pure coincidence."

MORAG PRESTON



Sir Charles Clore, known as the "takeover king", who founded the British Shoe Corporation which, at its height, dominated shoe retailing

Sears needs the Clore magic to step back into City favour

Sarah Cunningham on the prospects for
Liam Strong after the Freemans disposal

When the legendary Sir Charles Clore, founder of the Sears retailing empire, was asked for the secret of his success, he would reply: "Find the opportunity and work hard." No one claims that Liam Strong, chief executive of Sears, does not work hard. But his record for finding and making the most of opportunities is patchy — to say the least.

The £395 million sale of Freemans to Littlewoods is viewed as an effort to satisfy increasingly disgruntled investors, who can now expect to receive £410 million through a share buyback this year. As one cynical analyst put it: "Strong is using shareholders' money to bribe shareholders in order to save his own skin." But while the deal may buy him time, it is hardly a coup for Mr Strong — the previous management at Sears paid £477 million for the business nine years ago.

If some resolutions were found to the problems at the British Shoe Corporation, still the UK's largest shoe-seller, although a shadow of its former self, then it would be a genuine coup. But analysts say that Mr Strong's strategy of juggling down market with the self-service Shoe Express has failed as shoe sales from clothing retailers such as Next and Marks & Spencer have continued to grow. A more drastic move, such as selling or derailing BSC, or even closing it down, would be expensive and is not likely to happen for several months.

Sir Bob Reid, chairman of Sears, says that Mr Strong still has his full backing, but he could not protect him if big investors ganged up, and they are waiting for meetings with Sears in the next few days to decide whether what he has proposed is enough to justify his £445,000 pay. Analysts say that the lack of any obvious replacement could turn out to be Mr Strong's trump card.

But whoever is in charge, the end of BSC would leave Sears bearing very little relation to the group built up by Sir Charles. The constant slumping down initiated by the fast-talking Mr Strong, who was recruited from British Airways' marketing department, would have been anathema to the founder, who was dubbed "the takeover king".

Sir Charles bought the J Sears (True Form-Boot) company, which was founded in 1912, for £4 million in 1954

and changed its name to Sears Holdings the following year. A year later he added Dolcis and Manfield and then formed the British Shoe Corporation in 1957 to embrace his footwear interests. Over the next ten years he added Mappin & Webb and Garrard & Co, as well as Selfridges in Oxford Street and Lewis Department Stores to his empire.



Sir Charles launching the Cathy McGowan "Trend Steppers" in 1966

The son of an East End tailor who had emigrated from Russia to escape anti-Semitic violence, Charles Clore's extraordinary career began when he bought and then sold the South African film rights to the Tunney-Dempsey world heavyweight championship fight in 1924. He went on to buy Cricklewood ice-skating rink and the Prince of Wales Theatre in Leicester Square, and later added the Furness Shipbuilding Company.

Sears Holdings, which was largely

managed by his old friend Leonard Sainer, soon became a mighty force in retailing. British Shoe Corporation included the Dolcis, Lilley & Skinner, Manfield and Freeman Hardy Willis chains and at its height was responsible for one in four UK shoe sales.

Sir Charles died in 1974 a tax-exile in Monaco, but his story did not end there. He wanted his £100 million fortune to go to charity but it became snared in a legal tug-of-war between the Inland Revenue and Alan Clore, his son. Even more bizarrely, four years after Sir Charles' death his butler, Ronald Headford, who had continued to live in his late employer's Monte Carlo home, committed suicide after being accused of stealing art treasures worth £3 million from the house.

Sears, meanwhile, was being managed by the urbane Michael Rickard, who started to modernise the group,

ditching Mappin & Webb and William Hill, the bookmaker, and introducing Olympus Sport and Adams, the childrenswear chain.

In his first two years, Strong sought to accelerate the process. He disposed of the BSC shoe factories, along with Galliford housebuilding, Fosters and Your Price menswear retailing, and property investment. He has since sold Olympus Sport and Hush Puppy shoes. In their place came Richards, the womenswear chain developed by Sir Terence Conran, Shoe Express and the out-of-town Shoe City sheds.

At first things seemed to go his way and in April 1994 he felt he could say "we are no longer in the recovery phase". But the company was soon back on the critical list. Analysts say that anyone who thinks Mr Strong, who had no retailing experience before starting at Sears, is being judged harshly should take a look at the group's share price performance — 100p when he took over and now 38½p, bolstered by the prospect of a buyback. The most embarrassing episode for Mr Strong came last year when Facia, the retail business built up by Stephen Hinchliffe, collapsed and the leases on the 380 shoe shops Mr Strong had "sold" to that company reverted to Sears. There were always doubts about how Mr Hinchliffe could manage his array of retailing operations. The doubts, which appeared not to penetrate the Sears' boardroom, eventually reached the Department of Trade and Industry, which started proceedings to disqualify him as a director.

It is accepted that Sears is an extraordinarily difficult business to manage, but apparent miracles have happened in retailing before. Next went from being City darling to pariah and then regained its darling status after the management changed. Burton has been transformed under John Hoerner, its amiable American chief executive.

The glory days of Sears are long gone but it still has Selfridges and some strong clothing brands, and even its competitors want it to recover some of its sparkle. A big-spending empire-builder would not be right for the times, but a bit of Clore's famous Midas touch would go down a treat. As one head of a major high street retailer said: "There aren't many merchant princes out there, but what Sears needs is a merchant prince."



JANET BUSH

Japan bows to its critics

Japan's economic helmsmen are already tacking through the treacherously narrow sea channel between Scylla and Charybdis. But their navigational task is being made almost impossible by an aggressive flotilla of foreign craft, sailing under the flag of self-interest and market orthodoxy, harassing them from all sides.

For a nation that has, to many Western eyes, often seemed so self-reliant, so inward-looking, Japan now subjects itself to an extraordinary degree to outside pressures and opinion. The most recent example came last week when its business and financial leaders politely listened to a lecture from none other than Kenneth Clarke on why Japan ought to undertake structural reform of its economy and presumably become, like Britain, an international economic success story. One can only admire our Chancellor's cheek, but can one really imagine the furor if Japan's Finance Minister came to London and pontificated on how to emulate Japan's record on manufacturing exports, investment and permanently low unemployment?

Japan's relationship with America is a far more important example of Tokyo bending to the international will. US insistence that Japan act to curb its huge trade surplus led to a sharp appreciation in the yen, leading to recession and then stagnation, which has made it hard for Japan to recover from the bursting of its 1980s-style asset price bubble.

Having been brought to its knees — in relative terms — Japan is still not free to pursue its own national interest. On one hand, it is still being hemmed in by America on the matter of trade. Yesterday, Japan's latest current account figures were published and showed a continuing, but slowing, decline in the surplus that attracts such international ire. Far from applauding the fact that the yen's depreciation from its postwar high of 79.75 to the dollar in April 1995, is now helping to inject some much needed exporting power back into an otherwise hamstrung economy, the Japanese authorities are frightened to enjoy this breath of economic life.

Scared that further falls in the yen and a halt to the process of cutting its current account surplus will start another round of brow-beating

from America, the Japanese finance ministry was at pains yesterday to reassure Washington that its current account surplus is still shrinking. And, even as the stock market has plunged since the new year, the authorities have made it clear that they do not want a further softening of the yen. So Japan, already unable to lower interest rates any further to stimulate the economy, is denying itself monetary easing through the exchange rate.

At the same time, it is under enormous pressure from the gatekeepers of the prevailing world economic orthodoxy to tighten fiscal policy. This was one of the main new year messages from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. There is no doubt that the years of fiscal stimulation in the 1990s have left Japan with a budget problem, but it is highly questionable whether this should be tackled while the economic recovery — and particularly the banking system — is still so vulnerable. Japan faces a critical situation in which economists are busy calculating how far the Nikkei stock market index has to fall for Japanese banks to fail to meet international capital adequacy standards. At the same time, they are arguing that, if Japan fails to raise taxes, the stock market will fall even more catastrophically.

So, Japan is being denied full use of monetary and fiscal policy. On top of this, as Mr Clarke's contribution last week suggested, Japan is being told on all sides that it must restructure its economy, deregulate its financial system and other sectors and open up its markets. In its latest report, the OECD praises Japan's exceptional record on employment but says that economic restructuring will naturally mean having to accept a higher level of unemployment.

Japan undoubtedly faces serious long-term economic problems, but is the solution to saddle itself with the economic (and fiscal) woes of mass unemployment that face other mature industrialised countries? A cynic might conclude that America and others are happy for Japan to fail its own people economically as long as it continues to provide a market for their exports and buyers for their government bonds.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Needless surrender of hard-won funds for an annuity

From Mr Peter M. Smith
Sir, As someone who frequently advises the "end users" of pension schemes, I am often saddened by the waste and futility of people surrendering their hard-won funds to insurers in the purchase of annuities. The insurance industry even has a ghastly jargon title for this process: "compulsory purchase annuities".

Whilst annuities can remain as the ultimate income provision for those who are security conscious, there is no real reason in these days of investment sophistication why pension holders should ever have to annuitise their funds. The recent correspondence in your columns has brought this out clearly.

The legal and practical objections to eliminating compulsory annuity purchase are quite slim. A tax adjustment could be made on the ultimate passing out of the pension fund to the family of a deceased member, if this were thought appropriate. Pensions funds may well be needed to pay the costs of long-term care and the inflexibility of annuities is often inappropriate. Unfortunately, it seems likely that only a substantial protest will convince the authorities that the sequestration of money contributed largely by the public for its own retirement should cease. Anyone who thinks similarly should write to their Member of Parliament.

However, MPs are beneficiaries of a "final salary" scheme, but maybe a switch to "money purchase" pensions would concentrate their minds a bit!

Yours faithfully,
PETER M. SMITH,
Editor, Financial & Tax Planning Through Pensions,
The Laurels,
Weybridge Park,
Weybridge,
Surrey.

Power prices have a long way to fall

From Mr Gordon K. Moore
Sir, David Porter (Business Letters, December 31) states that prices for electricity customers are being driven down relentlessly. Compared with 1991 prices of 4d per unit running costs for East Midlands consumers, they have a long way to fall yet. 480 units for £1, then allowing for RPI changes (ONS figures) the cost today should be 32 for £1.

Modern technology, greater thermal efficiency, improved load factor and the benefits of R and D, should all combine to reduce the price even further.

Despite the difficulties of the post-war decade, running costs of 4d per unit for domestic consumers was wonderful value, not matched today. The excellent electricity hire scheme, with prompt free maintenance, no longer exists.

Clearly there is a far more costly supply and significantly less service today — why?

Yours faithfully,
GORDON K. MOORE
51 St. Clare's Close,
Farley Road,
Littleover Hill,
Derby.

Alternative measures of a company's prosperity

From Mr David H. O'Brien
Sir, It is no surprise that directors are biased towards shareholders' expectations (Philip Bassett, December 20, and Graham Searjeant, January 2). Share prices are the only measures of company performance available to other stakeholders.

Environmental protection legislation and ever tightening business regulations have caused companies to measure factors which were previously dismissed as unmeasurable or of no consequence to companies' prosperity. Directors and other employees are beginning to appreciate that personal behaviour can adversely affect the consents by which businesses operate.

Businesses can be brought into balance only when the total workforce appreciates

the legitimate requirements of all their major stakeholders. The prosperity of the business depends upon the workforce adequately and cost-effectively fulfilling those requirements. Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. O'BRIEN,
Centre for Service Management Studies,
14 Charvil House Road,
Reading,
Berkshire.

A question of honour and the failure of self-regulation at Lloyd's

From Mero Tetby
Sir, I am extremely dismayed that David Rowland should head the New Year's Honours List in recognition of his having "launched Lloyd's on its new path".

Are memories really so short? This new path was necessary only because the Council of Lloyd's, of which Mr Rowland was a prominent member, failed miserably to execute its self-regulatory duties and to prevent its self-inflicted crisis.

Let us remember that the failure of the Council of Lloyd's to self-regulate allowed the emergence of malignant practices such as the LMX spiral/churning, gross misrepresentation, incompetence and negligence, and for these to run riot. It was these practices that led directly to the worst portended losses in the history of Lloyd's PR, as financial ruin

for thousands of innocent people.

Seldom is it mentioned that as a broker Mr Rowland benefited financially when Lloyd's went off the tracks, and then again when, as chairman of Lloyd's he was assigned the task of rectifying the damage caused. For this he has received an exorbitant salary and a £400,000 bonus from Lloyd's.

Nobody at Lloyd's deserves

an award, and a reward for burning its own boats. The fact is that Mr Rowland has simply devalued the awards made to those whose achievements are truly worthy of recognition.

Yours faithfully,
MERO TETBY,
Brick Farm,
College Farm Road,
Belton-in-Rutland,
Leicestershire.

Disagreeable choice

From Mrs Josephine Boyle
Sir, One aspect of the delay on the payout of Lloyd's names (December 20 and 21) has been overlooked by your commentators. While Lloyd's has been unable to repay the surpluses due to names by the date they anticipated, they have not extended the deadline they

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BANKS				
Barclays	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
HSBC	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Midland	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST.				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT.				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ELECTRICITY				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ELECTRONIC & ELECT.				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
HEALTHCARE				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BUILDING MATERIALS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ENGINEERING				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
INSURANCE				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
CHEMICALS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
LEISURE & HOTELS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
Mining				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
PROPERTY				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
TELECOMMUNICATIONS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
TEXTILES & APPAREL				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
TRANSPORT				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
WATER				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
ALTERNATIVE INV. MARKET				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
SHORTS (under 5 years)				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
LONGS (over 15 years)				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
UNDATED				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
MEDIA				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
OTHER FINANCIAL				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
RETAILERS, FOOD				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
RETAILERS, GENERAL				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
WATER				
Heineken	12.50	+0.10	+0.8%	18.5
Guinness	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Stout	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2
Wm. & A. R. Ltd.	10.50	+0.05	+0.5%	15.2

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Beauty for
your daily

pressionis in wax

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Defiant and unclassifiable, Tony Cragg's big new sculptures go on show at the Whitechapel



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while in Spain an earlier sculptural genius — the inspirational Medardo Rosso — is celebrated

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Patron in the frame: Janet de Botton tells why she is giving 56 works to the new Tate at Bankside



■ TOMORROW

How to hit Broadway: a new book reveals how top musicals are constructed

VISUAL ART: Exhibitions of ground-breaking sculptors a century apart; and a public airing for a private collection

Beauty found in our daily junk

At the Whitechapel Richard Cork notes that custom, and fame, have not staled Tony Cragg's infinite variety

Now in his late forties, and enjoying an extensive international reputation, Tony Cragg might have been tempted to slip into complacency and repetition. He did, after all, play a prolific and inventive part in reviving British sculpture throughout the 1980s. Working first with plastic and other discarded materials, scavenged from beaches or the streets of Wuppertal, in Germany, where he settled 20 years ago, Cragg discovered how to turn even the most ordinary objects into powerful, provocative forms.

Now, in his first exhibition for an English public gallery since 1989, he is displaying work of the 1990s at the Whitechapel. And although his preoccupations remain consistent with the young artist whose emergence excited so much interest, there is no sense here of standing still. Quite the opposite: Cragg seems incessantly on the move.

The hefty dimensions of several pieces in the Whitechapel's main, nave-like space might tempt us to suspect him of succumbing to middle-aged monumentalism. But the size of Cragg's largest recent works is deceptive. Rather than degenerating into grandiosity, they can be ranked among his most unpredictable, deft and mysterious inventions.

Take the brazen form, curving across the floor of the street-level gallery. It bulges as wantonly as a series of newly inflated, interconnected balloons. But there is nothing overblown about its invasion of space. Sprouting an outside nipple at one end and curling up like a plump tail at the other, this engorged apparition seems quite capable of undergoing a transformation. The title of the work has already been altered. Originally called *Booy*, it is now listed as *Boy*.

Although such a change may seem merely capricious, it underlines the density of meanings which Cragg's

sculpture can harbour. Despite its apparent bulk, this work is made from lightweight Styrofoam and kaplar. It therefore appears eminently fit for floating in the most turbulent sea, but its swellings are at the same time organic and erotic enough to evoke the human body. Viewed in this light, the shifting title makes sense. Cragg's devour-

Even the grandest ensembles turn out to be vulnerable

ing curiosity about the interplay between himself and his surroundings ensures that he never sees anything in isolation. No sooner has a shape manifested itself in his mind than it starts to shed one identity and become something else. That is why his mercurial drawings, displayed upstairs as the fruit of a productive recent period at the Henry Moore Studio in Dean Clough, Halifax, are so enthralling. At once flowing and wiry, his defining line seizes on the essence of a form with ease. But just as the contours of a vessel become clear on the paper, we realise that it is changing into a land-mass. Or, rather, the two possibilities coexist in the same image.

Cragg's restless intelligence as a draftsman is reminiscent of Leonardo's. An instinctive fascination with science unites both men, and so does a refusal to regard scientific issues as separate from other concerns in their inquiring minds. The time Cragg spent working as a laboratory technician

before going to art school must have been illuminating, and probably ignited his enduring involvement with beakers and condensers of all kinds.

At the outset of his career, Cragg's vessels were usually found objects made of plastic. Now he is more likely to make them himself, but his ability to persuade us of their surprising expressiveness is undiminished. Sandblasted glass bottles of different sizes and shapes bristle as they project from every side of *Spyrogyra*, where a whirling steel frame seems on the point of setting them in ecstatic motion. Their subdued colours, ranging from soft blue and green to rich brown and a dusty plum redolent of long storage in wine-cellars, are seductive. But the bottles also threaten to spiral out of control, and a neighbouring cornucopia has already descended to the floor.

Even the grandest ensembles turn out to be vulnerable. Both versions of *Forminifera* present us with bleached plaster forms, some lying like broken pieces of classical architecture and others balanced on steel holders that resemble precarious trestles. These white presences may derive from containers, but they end up looking otherworldly and tantalising. Moreover, their surfaces are punctured with holes, like porous rock worn away by the action of water.

Similar references to the man-made and the natural can be found in many of Cragg's works. At his most bizarre, he smoothes a green piano and several nearby chairs in a gleaming, menacing blizzard of small metal hooks. But the same implements also spring out of timber pieces lodged inexplicably among the furniture, suggesting that nothing can escape the hooks' rapacious advance.

Cragg, however, is not a pessimist. Sardonian humour erupts in his most macabre work, most notably when he exposes the plas-



Untitled (1993): "At his most bizarre, Cragg smothers a green piano and several chairs in a menacing blizzard of small metal hooks"

ter teeth of a primordial skeleton in a sculpture called *Complete Omnivore*. Redoubtable in size, they are on one level grotesque manifestations of grinding power. They are also wryly funny, and acknowledge that humanity's survival has depended on its capacity to feed off matter of all kinds. Cragg could himself be described as omnivorous in his attitude to materials. If plastic cannot be found in this exhibition, he is still prepared to go far beyond the sculptor's traditional wood, stone and bronze. Indeed, he has always been able to persuade us that late 20th-century materials are just as beguiling as their predecessors.

From a distance, *Nautilus* may

seem to be hewn from white marble. The fact that it is made of Styrofoam and fibreglass may alter our perception of the work, but does not impair its ability to delight. The five bulbous yet elegant forms congregating so deftly on a circular ledge are complemented, like a reflection, by five more below. The title suggests that Cragg may have taken the wriggling bodies of cuttlefish or octopus as his springboard. By the time he finished with them, though, their resemblance to molluscs was no longer dominant.

Over the past few years, as his sculpture has grown more audacious in formal terms, Cragg has resisted any attempt to identify a

particular work as a single, nameable object. If molluscs did indeed nourish him at the start of *Nautilus*, its forms are now equally suggestive of stones, jugs, pillars and a host of different organisms.

Everything, in Cragg's encompassing vision of the world, is interrelated. He appears as fascinated by molecules as by mountains, and in an outstanding two-piece work called *Secretions* the minuscule and the majestic are both kept at the forefront of our attention. In the lower of the two parts, vessels seem once again the starting-point for these enigmatic forms. But they are soon overtaken by a rush of other possibilities, and the higher, more Baroque part

rears into the air like some fantastic, twisted uncrop. Inspection discloses that the whole of *Secretions* surface is studded with hundreds of dice. They are a marvellously poetic way of showing how even the most awesome structures are built up, and how chance plays its part in determining the shape of the world. Cragg's work is replete with such insights, as this triumphant exhibition shows.

● Tony Cragg, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, London E1 101T-22 7878 until March 9. Cragg's latest large sculpture, *Pillars of Salt*, is on view at the Lisson Gallery, 52-54 Bell Street, London NW1 0JF (0171-724 2739) by appointment only

Impressionist in wax

A Spanish show of work by the 19th-century sculptor Medardo Rosso is attracting worldwide attention

Tony Cragg says that Rosso transformed the practice of making sculpture into a form of thinking with material. Thomas Schütte sees his sculptures as "roughly sketched shapes, the preliminaries, the tiny crumbs which remain as the most thrilling of the 19th century". Juan Muñoz, describing the work as *écriture*, says: "The man writes quickly, believing that the best words are those which are worn away at the edges".

So who is this obscure late-19th-century artist who can unite in enthusiasm the erstwhile virtuoso of coloured plastic fragments and the leading German and Spanish exponents of the installation? And why is the most comprehensive exhibition ever of Medardo Rosso's work being staged in the Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporánea, more

almost the whole oeuvre is assembled in the forms conceived by Rosso himself, the contrast is amazing.

Rosso has been called an Impressionist in sculpture, and there is much truth in this. As in a Monet landscape, the subject is merely the pretext for the study of light: how it moves across a surface, how it penetrates a translucent medium and is reconstituted. For this, the qualities of the wax, its colour and texture, are vitally important. Bronze tends to repel light, while wax attracts it and glows. But Schütte also has a point when he claims that Rosso is the opposite of the Impressionists, his art being essentially about erosion, and wear and tear, long time and decay. It depends whether you see the fragile wax structures as just coming into existence, or caught on the verge of destruction.

The great novelty of the show — apart from its rigorous concentration on complete authenticity — is the showing, for the first time, of the considerable body of photographs Rosso made in connection with his sculptures. For him they were not, as with the Rodin photographs, a means of documentation, but works in their own right, alternative versions of such recurrent subjects as the *Laughing Child*, the *Sick Girl* or the *Dickensian Bookmaker*. The effect of these pictures, now themselves literally trembling on the edge of extinction, is intensely moving, and deeply symbolic of Rosso's deceptively fragile, deceptively enduring art.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

● Centro Gallego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela until Feb 23



Head boy: Medardo Rosso's *Bambino Ebreo* (1892-93) — sculpture as "a form of thinking with material"

THE labyrinthine maze of the newly restored Mith gallery is a perfect setting for Steve Farrer's film installation. It is a formal affair, with layers of interwoven imagery. Farrer uses shot film, ready-made film and still photographs and has them playing in contradictory fashion in an almost Cubist arrangement. Water on the basement floor reflects back hugely extended family stills, while upstairs a Humphrey Bogart film, playing continuously, changes viewpoint across a triptych of huge screens. The show makes a powerful spatial play between two and three dimensions. Mith, 144 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-379 4338) until Saturday

AROUND THE GALLERIES

□ THE Union Flag coloured instead with the orange and green of the Irish Tricolour flies high and proud from the top of a Brixton building. It is possible to see Mark Wallinger's flag, part of an exhibition titled *Pledge Allegiance to a Flag?*, from the main shopping street. Inside at the London Printworks Trust it is then possible to sit in a chair, hear your heartbeat and see yourself projected on the inside of a faint tent of taut material. Over the top of the sound of the beat, a series of "world events" are projected: demonstrations, horse charges, world leaders, and a child sings *You are My Sunshine*. Any

possible irony intended by Ade Adekola falls flat, however, in such a generalised onslaught. Around the corner, in a perfectly executed set scene, is a complete Victorian parlour. Yinka Shonibare lights his perfection dramatically. Pictures of the Great Exhibition are hung against the wallpaper print of African textile and black footballer, an image which is repeated again and again in the rug, the "window", and even in the plump, button-backed furniture. London Printworks Trust, 5th floor, Unit 14, Brighton House, 9 Brighton Terrace, London SW9 (0171-738 7841), to Jan 29

SACHA CRADDOCK

No more room for the In

Janet de Botton ran out of space for her superb collection of modern art — and the Tate is the beneficiary

Collectors of contemporary art in this country maintain such a low profile that they appear barely to exist. Unlike America, where collecting is a very public occupation, private collectors over here prefer to remain private. So from 1985, when Charles Saatchi opened his gallery in St John's Wood, until very recently, one could be forgiven for thinking that this was the only contemporary art collection in London.

Now, with her recent gift of 56 works to the Tate's new Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside (due to open in 2000), Janet de Botton has also gone public. Her collection was formed at much the same time as that of Saatchi, who de Botton says was a major influence on her, and is of similar standing. Art world lore has it that Doris and Charles Saatchi and Janet and Michael Green (de Botton's first husband, now chairman of Carlton) would visit galleries and artists' studios in a foursome in the late 1970s and early 1980s. They shared a taste for what was coming out of New York at that time: works by Andy Warhol, Carl Andre, Julian Schnabel, Robert Rymen, Frank Stella and the photographer Cindy Sher-

man are among those de Botton has allowed the Tate carte blanche to select for Bankside.

"I began collecting in 1976 when we moved out of our little flat into a rather large and empty house in Holland Park. I got a big orange and pink abstract painting by John Hoyland to cheer it up. I thought it was a mistake, so I sent it back, but then I changed my mind."

At first she didn't think of it as collecting. "I wanted to have art around me and to live with it. For me there was a clear step between buying paintings to furnish a house and collecting works you can never hang," de Botton says. The room in which we are talking has two Warhol portraits of Chairman Mao above the sofa. Elsewhere there are works by Julian Schnabel and Cy Twombly, while in another room Richard Long has daubed an Avon mud circle on to the wall.

Lack of space, however, permits her to live with only a fraction of her collection, of which the Tate now has a quarter — "a very good quarter, not just the most expensive or the best known". The Tate will display them in a special exhibition next year.



Janet de Botton: "You have to be completely driven to collect"

The remaining 200 works are in storage. Many are simply too big to display in a domestic setting. "You know when you buy something 4m high you can never house it, but you buy it because it is the best work you have seen by that particular artist. It is less painful to put it in storage than not have it at all."

What about the risks involved in buying contemporary art? Mistakes are inevitable, de Botton says, and sometimes you just have to live with them. And that, in turn, trains your eye. "I buy for an instinctive reason and, as I live with a work, it becomes apparent how good or bad it is."

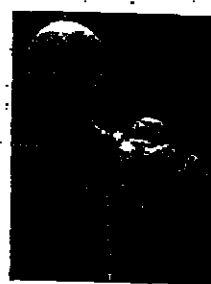
Her collection is the best of what was coming out of Europe and America in the late 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. "I find it easier to go with my own generation in collecting," she says. "There is a natural

empathy. The 1980s was a very fertile period for art, but I only ever bought what I liked. Now I can't believe that I had that conviction."

De Botton comes from a family that, through the Wolfson Foundation created by her grandfather and father, has unobtrusively given a good deal of money to museums and art galleries. She does not consider herself to be a serious collector any longer. "My collecting life had a 20-year span and at the moment it does not absorb me in the way that it did. You have to be completely driven to collect. I now tend to add to my collection rather than discover new artists, although I think the interest in British art at the moment, the emergence of 'let's be proud about what's going on', is great."

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THEATRE
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THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE
Beauty in distress: Darcey Bussell brings a touch of heroics to Covent Garden



CD CHOICE
Breath-taking on ivory: Building a Library surveys the top recordings of Ravel's *Miroirs*

Make 'em laugh, make 'em think

LONDON MIME FESTIVAL
Kenneth Rea on the enduring power and mystique of modern clowns

It takes a brave imagination to tell the story of Romeo and Juliet, romantically, with an all-male cast of nine clowns. But Théâtre le Ranelagh's version, *Sur la route de Stenno* (On the Road to Stenno), is not a crass parody: indeed it underlines the growing power that clowns have in today's theatre. The show captivated the French and is now part of the London International Mime Festival, which opened on Saturday.

Across London more clowns are serving up their own brand of Surrealism to large and awestruck audiences. For an inkling of the clown of the future, take a look at the designer-dressed creatures in Cirque du Soleil's *Saltimbanco* at the Albert Hall. Or at Sadler's Wells' Peacock Theatre, the tragic spectacle of the great Slava Polunin in *Snowshow*.

These are not the gaudily dressed clowns of circus rings, but an altogether more enigmatic animal whose pedigree goes back to the Elizabethan jester. Not solely reliant on crude slapstick, they deal in subtlety and sophistication.

Clowns influenced artists such as Modigliani and Picasso, inspired the poets Mallarmé and Baudelaire, and fascinated playwrights from Wedekind to Beckett. They have proliferated in the theatre, while on television, through a new generation of comedians such as Rowan Atkinson and Lee Evans, they have become commentators on our times.

A great clown commands our respect while making us laugh. The clown is the child who sees the world with unadorned innocence: he has the licence for madness and unconventional behaviour, but also the impunity to speak the truth. Like the boy who roams the world, the clown to expose the corruption of big business and the sleaze of politics. Through our laughter, the pretensions are deflated. But we also need the clown to remind us to dream.

"When I go on stage I want the audience to return to the dreams of their childhood," says Polunin. "This is the main thing. It's a kind of medicine because if we are true to our dreams we are happy. At the end of my show, when I see old people start to push kids aside to play with giant balloons, then something is happening."



Shakespeare without words: one of the nine clowns in the all-male cast gets ready for his role in Théâtre le Ranelagh's spell-binding version of *Romeo and Juliet*

Madonna Bouglione, director of Théâtre le Ranelagh, builds dreams for us by reviving the French pantomime style of her illustrious circus family, though on a more modest scale. "My grandfather had 150 dancers, with elephants, tigers, crocodiles, snakes and horses," she recalls. "He staged *The Bengal Lancers* as a pantomime. In those days you could get rich with a show. But now I just hope I won't go to jail."

The genre, which was famously depicted in the film *Les Enfants du Paradis*, evolved as a result of 19th-century licensing laws which permitted only the Comédie Française to stage spoken plays in Paris. Silent pantomime was a popular way of circumventing the monopoly, and it stayed.

Applying the family recipe to *Romeo and Juliet*, Bouglione condensed the story to 15 lines, com-

piled a soundtrack of lush music that unashamedly juxtaposed Wagner and Nino Rota, then collaborated with the Russian clown Valery Keft — a student of Polunin — to marry circus skills, mime and Shakespeare.

Thus Romeo reaches Juliet's balcony by walking on water — or rather on a series of blocks placed under a rippling sheet of blue silk. And although Juliet is really a bespectacled young man in a frock, when they dance together through the swirling dry ice, the effect is more romantic than anything you might watch at the RSC. And when the Montagues clash with the Capulets, there is a thrilling cascade of juggled knives and bodies tumbling through the air.

At first glance there might seem to be a tension between the natural anarchy of a clown and the discipline needed to tell a story

concisely, but Bouglione and Keft have moulded a rhythm and temperament quite different from that of the circus.

"In the circus you must be immediately effective," explains Bouglione. "You have only five or six minutes so you're not looking to say anything very profound. The most important thing is to be funny very quickly."

But in the theatre, she says, the audience is closer. "You can take the time to tell stories. You can use silence and be very romantic and emotional. Technique is so important for a clown, though. You must rehearse and rehearse until it's totally inside you."

As Polunin points out, circus clowns are a relatively recent phenomenon anyway: they didn't cross over from the stage to the big

top until the 19th century when circuses, especially the American ones, became bigger and glitzier.

"By the 1950s the virtuosity of the clown reached its peak, but he lost his soul," says Polunin. "Against that background the theatre tradition of the clown was reborn. The theatre clown wanted to capture simplicity, warmth and naivety. He wanted to return to the poetry that was lost in the circus. Another reason is that the 20th century is essentially the century of intellectual man. Just to see somebody kicking somebody else was not enough to make him happy. So the new type of clown was trying to introduce to his art new ideas on a more intellectual level."

"The circus clown is a grotesque, a caricature, but the modern clown is getting closer and closer to a psychological character. My clown figure is not just a caricature. He is

a tragicomic hero — a modern Don Quixote."

The art of the clown is one of the most gruelling of all the performing arts, for it demands both the courage to expose your vulnerability and the confidence to express your personal vision of the world. Like something out of an actor's nightmare, you are sent naked onto the stage without a script, armed only with your imagination.

This is the reason Bouglione insists that her clowns must know why they are there. "A clown who doesn't have something to say doesn't need to go on the stage," she says. "He may give immediate pleasure but he leaves no souvenir in the audience's mind. If he doesn't have this he becomes merely a circus clown."

London International Mime Festival, until Jan 26 (details 0171-637 5661). *Snowshow*, until Jan 30 (0171-312 1966).

Two for the price of one

IF WE didn't know it before, we know it now. Darcey Bussell is not only a star, she is also a real trouper. Picture the scene on Saturday night at Covent Garden. Only minutes to go before the curtain rises on *The Sleeping Beauty* and Bussell is in her dressing room fighting back the flu. But she does not want to disappoint her audience, so she summons up the strength to don tutu and grease-paint and out she trots for Act 1.

The only happens to be the most gruelling test of a ballerina's skills in all of classical ballet, one that defeats many a healthy dancer, let alone a sick one. And what did the ailing Bussell do? She produced a most ravishing display of bountiful classicism, exciting in its ambition and breathtaking in its realisation. Her self-possession as a performer

DANCE

Sleeping Beauty
Covent Garden

is always impressive; on Saturday night it was little short of miraculous. She was a radiant, gleaming Aurora, a ballerina who embraced Petipa's demanding choreography with rapture and confidence.

The Rose Adagio balances were taken at the pace of molasses on a cold day, drawn out to such an extent that Viktor Fedotov almost ran out of music to conduct. Whether she was trying to conserve her energy, or whether she just wanted to cherish each and every balance, the effect was the same — sheer magic as she made the mark.

Her solo was no less wonderful: nimble footwork, voluptuous extensions and dazzling backbends. Those who had paid to see Bussell could have no cause to complain after that, even though the exertions of Act I meant she was unable to complete the ballet. Belinda Hatley, who was waiting in the wings, was called in to replace Bussell at the beginning of Act II and became the lucky girl to be awoken by Stuart Cassidy's handsome Prince.

Although we lost the continuity of characterisation with the change of ballerina, we were treated to some lovely dancing. Hatley has a very expressive style, one that quietly makes its point in delicate, well-thought-out phrases. She was well partnered by Cassidy, whose solos were also attractively delivered. In the pit, Fedotov was going great guns, producing a rousing account of Tchaikovsky's score and helping the dancers along wherever necessary by adjusting tempos.

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A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

RAVEL'S MIROIRS

Reviewed by Bryce Morrison

RAVEL'S *Miroirs* form a scintillating paradox, though one in which widely conflicting ideas are resolved by the composer's deeply personal symbolism and by his tireless search for "technical perfection". Understandably, such an interplay of objective and subjective notions provoked a critical storm at the first performance, given in Paris in 1905 by the redoubtable Ricardo Vines.

Today's available recordings come in all shapes and sizes, though there is much evidence that the possession of a French passport is no guarantee of authenticity. Meticulous to the point of neurosis, Ravel would surely have been angered by pianists who flout even his most rudimentary instructions: who substitute one dynamic for another (generally, forte for piano), whose rhythmic freedom verges on licence, and who liberally spray the score with inaccuracies.

There are, however, some notable exceptions. Vlado Perlemuter's Nimbus disc is of special interest, though his innate keyboard elegance is severely strained by the virtuoso demands of *Alborada del Gracioso*. Marcelle Meyer (EMI), another pianist central to the French tradition, is more vivacious though scarcely more precise, while Pascal Rogé, on Decca, offers a most stylish reticence — one which should not be mistaken for diffidence.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
Next Saturday (Radio 3, 9am): Shostakovich's Symphony No 5



Louis Lortie on Chandos is, arguably, more bold and characterful, while Paul Crossley, presented in CRD's brightly lit sound, is both disciplined and poetic. Gordon Fergus-Thompson (ASV) is a pianist with a strong sense of Ravel's luxury, relishing every golden opportunity for nuance and richness, and Frederick Chiu, whose enterprising Harmonia Mundi recital includes works by Abel Decaux and Schoenberg, is as light-fingered and fanciful as you could wish.

Sviatoslav Richter's "live" 1965 Prague performance (on Praga) goes in a category of its own, his transcendental pianism sometimes hallucinatory, sometimes engulfing the score in an element's rage of sound.

Best of all is Jean-Yves Thibaudet (Decca 433 515-2, 2CDs, £30.49), whose performance is piquant and engaging in the best French style. Fearless in bravura (notably in *Alborada*'s double note *glissandi* and valleys of repeated notes), he is no less attuned to Ravel's subtle and quixotic nature.

Somewhat surprisingly presented and recorded, this is a performance to treasure.

THEATRE: Social revolutionaries at the NT; spineless *Jekyll* in Edinburgh

WHAT the tide, *Light Shining in Buckinghamshire*, means is obscure, but it sounds terrific, and that about expresses my feelings for Caryl Churchill's ground-breaking play, now revived at the Cottesloe for the current NT Education tour. The play shows us ground-breakers too: Diggers, Ranters, Levelers, social visionaries who failed to turn the uprising against Charles I into a democratic movement and were defeated by the forces of Property — Cromwell, Ireton, squires and parsons.

The story of their doomed attempts to persuade opponents during the Putney Debates and their equally fruitless farming of common land at Cobham and Weybridge, was an area of British history left unexamined in my school days. What tradesmen and landless villagers might have believed was thought not worth discovering. So Churchill shows us, drawing on the copious records of the period but

Diggers dug



Tim Welton (and Tim Crouch behind) break new ground

making her own imaginative contributions, often drawing on suggestions made by actors at rehearsal.

One such casual remark became the exchange between two women who break into a great house and emerge with a

piece of mirror. The older woman describes the much greater looking-glasses they left behind: "They must know what they look like all the time." In a line like this an entire period bounds into life.

So why does the play as a

whole leave me unsatisfied? The cast of six is determined and convincing in roles that represent most classes between Cromwell and the paupers: Mark Wing-Davey's austere direction resourcefully uses Maxine Herbert's set of plain tables and metal screens, and his closed-circuit television camera throws faint images of the actors upon the rear wall. This is presumably to make us feel that the spirit of the Diggers lives on today. Republicanism is a potent issue for the first time since the defeat of Charles I, and millenarian fantasies preoccupy simpler minds. Surely the past in Churchill's play is our present and future?

But too much has changed. The religious issues shown here have now been sidelined. The dismal fate of the revolutionaries can be touching but their personalities seem remote. Spare and precise, gritty and wrathful, the production is expert but the content dry.

JEREMY KINGSTON

A timid Hyding to nothing much

WHEN David Edgar's take on Stevenson's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was revived in Birmingham last year, it transcended not only its original sources, but its own first outing some five years previously. Then, good and evil had seemingly been separated at birth, dividing the role between two actors, while the revised version put the divided self back squarely in the same body, soul, and psyche. By all accounts it was a triumph, which makes Kenny Ireland's new production at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh doubly disappointing.

This is not to say there is nothing on offer. Edgar's post-Freud, post-R.D. Laing approach broadens things out, giving Jekyll — here an upright Calvinist man of science and warmabe libertine — a foreboding family tree overshadowing his every action. Following in the footsteps but living in the shadow of his dead

father, he also has a one-eyed sister to rattle a closet-load of skeletons. Moreover, the poor fellow has a nubile runaway maid to contend with, his alter ego having put her "in the family way". At his hellfire bachelor club, meanwhile, the idea is most definitely the thing — abstract rhetoric devoid of anything remotely like feeling or naked emotion. Edgar himself is a victim of this macho disease, theorising himself into a corner with a dialectic perfection delivered so coldly and with all its Victorian trappings that it comes across as little more than slack melodrama devoid of imagination. Because, despite Edgar's invented characters — Jekyll's sister being a particularly hammy conceit — it is just too literary for its own good. While there are clearly chunks lifted from the book, even the invented lines sound as though they were too. Full marks to Edgar for slipping his

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LAW

Should judges be told what sentences to pass? Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, reports



Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, left, and Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker, former Home Secretaries, questioning the sentencing changes

A voice for the public

The Home Secretary's proposals in the Crime (Sentences) Bill to curtail severely the sentencing powers of the judges in cases of serious offences have predictably come under attack from a united front of the higher judiciary. Yesterday the proposals had their third reading in the Commons. But the attack is likely to be renewed in the Lords later this month by Lord Bingham of Cornhill — if only because the proposals represent an intrusion into the traditional role of the criminal courts in sentencing offenders.

More significantly, they have been seriously questioned by two former Home Secretaries, Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker, as being likely to fill the overcrowded prisons, clog up the courts and cause individual injustice.

If the statutory imposition of minimum and mandatory life sentences for certain crimes is criminologically unsound, in foundation and will be unworkable in practice, the new Bill does reflect a public perception (not warranted by factual evidence of courts' sentencing of inadequate punishment of persistent and dangerous offenders. So is there any way in which genuine public anxiety about inadequate sentencing can be allayed, while retaining the need for all sentencing to be the exclusive province of the judiciary?

Some recognition of the occasional failures of trial judges to pass adequate or appropriate sentences was made in the

Criminal Justice Act 1968. 'Unduly lenient sentences, passed by the Crown Court for indictable-only offences, can be challenged by the Attorney-General deciding to refer cases to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), which in turn may increase the sentence. The reform has worked well enough. But the time seems ripe for enlarging the right of appeal beyond just those cases of undue leniency. But it is sensible and unobjectionable for the Director of Public Prosecutions — to challenge selectively any inadequate or inappropriate (as distinct from unduly lenient) sentence, would it not be wise to go further? On the debate of the measure introduced in 1988, Lord Lane, then Lord Chief Justice, said in the House that "the more the prosecution can play a part in the sentencing process, the less likely it is that the need will arise for the Crown to appeal

against an over-lenient sentence". (I omit a qualifying phrase, to which I will allude later.) Has not the time come for perfecting that idea by formally making the Crown a party to the court procedure, post-conviction? Traditionally, prosecuting counsel ceases to be a party once the verdict of guilt is recorded. The Bar Code of Conduct states that "prosecuting counsel should not attempt to influence the court with regard to sentence". Ever if invited by the trial judge to assist, the practice is to de-duce, beyond telling the court what powers it has in the case and any relevant Court of Appeal guidelines.

If the mitigation by defence counsel contains unjust criticism of the victim, prosecuting counsel should tell the court it is incorrect. But generally not otherwise. The rationale of such abstinence from the sentencing process is that the

prosecution must not in any way seek to be involved, because that, it is claimed, would breach the independence of the judiciary; there should be no semblance of penalty-fixing, or subservience on the part of the judges to the Executive on the policy or practices in sentencing. Lord Lane's qualification for advocating prosecution involvement in the sentencing process was, "without, it hardly needs saying, demanding 'X' years as the minimum". Is it unthinkable, now that we have, since 1985, a national prosecution service, under the direction of the DPP, that prosecuting counsel should formally indicate what the Crown thinks is the appropriate penalty, so the judge can assess the right sentence and avoid, so far as possible, either unmerited appeals by the offender or references by the Attorney-General of cases of undue leniency?

The innate sense of fair play that marks the present system in this country of prosecution withdrawal from the sentencing process is in stark contrast to most legal systems in the rest of Europe. But the com-

There is an innate sense of fair play about our system

mental practice of prosecutors making submissions on sentence is not entirely alien to the British Isles. The explanation for the departure in the Channel Islands from the English rule is that the power of the Attorney-General (Procureur in Guernsey) is traditionally far more extensive than that of the DPP. The Attorney-General is the *partie publique*, whose function is to safeguard the public interest in the widest sense.

If the role of prosecuting counsel were to be significantly changed in a way which would bring England into line with other civilised legal systems, it would inject a practice infinitely preferable to minimum and mandatory sentences. It would preserve judicial independence: at the same time it would give the public an official voice in our Crown Courts.

● Sir Louis Blom-Cooper was a judge in the Courts of Appeal in Jersey and Guernsey, 1988 to 1996.

When counsel should come clean

Counsel have a duty to advance the interests of their clients. But sometimes this must give way to an overriding duty not to mislead the court. The judgments of the Court of Appeal in *Vernon v Bosley* (Times Law Report, December 19, 1996) illustrate the fundamental importance of this principle, and the difficulty in its application.

The defendant was employed by the plaintiff and his wife as a nanny for their two daughters. In August 1982, the nanny negligently drove a car containing the children into a river in South Wales. The plaintiff sued the defendant (in reality, her insurance company) for damages for the psychiatric injuries he sustained by witnessing unsuccessful rescue attempts.

In January 1995, Mr Justice Sedley awarded the plaintiff a substantial sum of damages based on the evidence he had heard from a consultant psychiatrist and a clinical psychologist about the plaintiff's mental state and the prognosis for the future.

Unknown to Mr Justice Sedley, those experts had also given evidence for the plaintiff in separate family law proceedings in the county court between the plaintiff and his wife at the end of 1994. In that forum, the same experts had stated, in support of their client, that the plaintiff's psychiatric health had greatly improved and that he had substantially recovered from the traumatic incident.

In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Lord Justice Thorpe held that the plaintiff had a duty to disclose the further evidence to the defendant. His counsel had seriously misled both Mr Justice Sedley and the Court of Appeal (which, at an earlier hearing, had decided an appeal about the amount of compensation without being told about the further evidence). The Court of Appeal reduced the plaintiff's compensation. Lord Justice Evans dissented.

The Code of Conduct for the Bar states that a practising barrister "must assist the court in the administration of justice and must not deceive or knowingly or recklessly mislead the court". The difficulty arises because the courts have held that though barristers must not actively mislead the court, they may stand passively by and watch the court being misled by reason of its ignorance of the true facts.

An example of actively misleading the court can be found in a 1961 Court of Appeal judgment. The court allowed an appeal after a civil trial for assault because the defendant's barrister had not told the court, or the plaintiff, that his client, a police officer, had been demoted from Chief Inspector for

deception of a court. Everyone in court had wrongly referred to the defendant as "Chief Inspector".

Vernon v Bosley is a very welcome restatement of the obligations of counsel. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith explained that "where the case has been conducted on the basis of certain material facts which are an essential part of the party's case", that party's lawyers have a duty to correct the court's understanding when, before judgment, the facts are discovered by them to be significantly different.

Lord Justice Thorpe pointed out that the balance between the advocate's duties to a client and to the court "must reflect evolutionary change within the civil justice system". Reforms in civil justice require "strengthening the duty to the court". He rightly referred to the value of an "instinctive and intuitive judgment" in this context. "The course that feels wrong," he said, "is unlikely to be the safe course to follow."

Difficult cases can and do arise as to the extent of a lawyer's duty to correct a misleading impression. But, as the majority of the Court of Appeal concluded, *Vernon v Bosley* was well over the line. Counsel had made "a serious error of judgment" in failing to advise their client of the need for disclosure.

An ethical legal system cannot permit lawyers to present a positive case and then conceal inconsistent statements by their own expert witnesses. Nor is the principle affected by the fact that counsel became aware of the county court statements after Mr Justice Sedley had heard evidence, but before he gave judgment.

The judges in the majority disagreed about the steps which counsel should take. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith considered that counsel should advise the client to make disclosure; if the client refused, counsel should withdraw from the case. Lord Justice Thorpe more persuasively contended that if the client declined to reveal the new facts, counsel should make disclosure to the opposing counsel. Otherwise, an injustice may well occur.

Though Lord Justice Evans dissented, he was right to suggest that *Vernon v Bosley* "deserved a place in the history books or in some legal museum" as an example of excessive costs and delays.

The case demonstrates two other defects that can afflict civil justice in England and Wales: partisan expert witnesses, and the failure of some lawyers to recognise that they have duties other than promoting the interests of their clients.



DAVID PANNICK QC

Changing culture

FRESH FROM his groundbreaking meeting with the Association of Chief Probation Officers, Lord Bingham of Cornhill is to achieve another first. In June he will become the first Lord Chief Justice to give the Prison Reform Trust's annual lecture.

His decision indicates that Lord Bingham intends to continue the trend, initiated by his predecessor, of engaging in public debate on criminal justice matters — watch for the Lords debate on the Crime (Sentences) Bill on January 27.

Stephen Shaw, the chairman of the trust, says: "His decision to accept the invitation shows the cultural change that has taken place. Until Lord Taylor became Lord Chief Justice, it would have been unimaginable for a man in that position to give our annual lecture."

Lobbying Howard
MICHAEL HOWARD has surprised and delighted the Probation Service by dining privately with individual

chief probation officers and members of their committees. By all accounts, the meals, described by one guest as "businesslike rather than social occasions", have worked a treat. The service was delighted to have a chance to lobby Mr Howard over the Government's law and order measures. But one cynic re-

marked: "The chief probation officers clearly enjoy the dinners, but is there any evidence that he takes on board what they tell him?"

The evidence, so far, is no.

Dangerous talk
EVEN in the big City law firms, ambition has its limits.



Name fame
WHAT A PITY the newly merged Cameron McKenna has dropped the "Markby" in Cameron Markby Hewitt. Mr Markby was immortalised by an insult in The Importance Of Being Earnest after quarrelling with Oscar Wilde, left.

Lady Bracknell, told that Gwendolen's solicitors are "Messrs Markby, Markby & Markby", sniffily comments: "A firm of the very highest in their profession. Indeed, I am told that one of the Mr Markbys is occasionally seen at dinner."

But only, it seems, when life is at stake.

An assistant solicitor was asked to help out in a firm's Moscow office on a transaction. When his work was finished, the head of the Moscow office mentioned to the head of the assistant's department that it had been useful that the lawyer spoke fluent Russian. This fact was not on the assistant's CV.

Asked why, the assistant confessed: "There are several of us here who haven't admitted to speaking Russian. We don't want to risk being posted there; it's far too dangerous."

Pro bono
TONY WILLIS, a partner in Clifford Chance, is to chair the first Solicitors Pro Bono Group, which has been set up to encourage solicitors and their firms in ventures where they offer legal advice free of charge. The idea comes from Andrew Phillips, founder of the Citizenship Foundation.

Mr Willis said: "Our intention is to turn this initiative into an enduring framework for a coherent programme of pro bono work by solicitors." Mr Willis is on 0171-600 1000.

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Commercial Lawyer, March 1996.

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The Legal 500, The Clients' Guide to UK Law Firms, 1996.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Robin Fitzsimons reports on the options open to the Hong Kong electorate if it is not to be represented by Yes Men of the People's Republic

Will the voice of the voters be heard?

This afternoon Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, will be questioned by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee. It will be a grave occasion. Four hundred of China's chosen have just appointed 60 of the People's Republic's supporters to become Hong Kong's "provisional legislature", the body set to replace the elected Legislative Council (LegCo). China's indifference to the promises in the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration is clear.

That declaration guarantees Hong Kong a "high degree of autonomy" and spells out the many "freedoms" of speech, of the press... which its citizens will enjoy. It underpins these promises with one crucial imperative - that the "legislature shall be constituted by elections".

Many and eminent are the authorities who say that the appointment of a "provisional legislature" violates the declaration. Baroness Thatcher, the US Senate, the UN Human Rights Committee and the International Commission of Jurists have all said as much. What can be done about the violation?

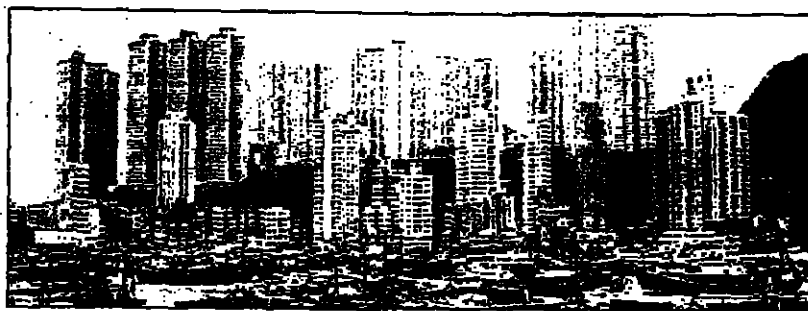
If you believe Sir Percy Cradock, who negotiated the declaration, the answer is

"nothing but spit against the wind". John Major promised to "mobilise the international community and pursue every legal and other avenue available to us". Mr Patten told LegCo: "Take up the matter, not least in the United Nations."

Now Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, has asked China to have the dispute over the legislature heard by the World Court, the International Court of Justice. Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, was dismissive, and called Britain a coward for suggesting it. It would be useless, he said, for Britain to play any more international cards.

Never mind that China has implicitly accepted the court's competence in territorial, administrative and human rights disputes, or that there has been a Chinese judge on the World Court since 1985.

The Joint Declaration is a treaty lodged with the UN - whose very Charter tells of the purpose to promote respect for international obligations and treaties. But China does not accept the



Hong Kong has been "guaranteed" a high degree of autonomy

court's compulsory contentious jurisdiction (nor does America). Curiously, the declaration specifies no mechanism of dispute resolution. A protocol could still, however, be added.

What if China continues to stonewall? The court might then act in its advisory jurisdiction. UN organs and agencies - such as the General Assembly (for its interim committee) - can refer legal

questions for the court's opinion. Legal attempts by interested parties to stop such a hearing have almost always failed. China might not have a Security Council veto in a dispute referral.

Such advisory opinions are not binding in the way that contentious decisions are, but they have equivalent authority and do define international law. Judge Nagendra Singh, a former World Court

President, said in 1988 that a "state which chooses to contravene what has been defined as a rule of law in an advisory opinion will find it difficult to claim that it is not in breach of international law" - a powerful incentive for China to comply.

Even Sir Percy has said that since China has opted for the "legal rather than military solution" for Hong Kong, it would stick to the legal course.

Also, Mr Qian's fury about internationalisation suggests a real Chinese vulnerability. Lord Skidelsky, the eminent economic historian, argues that China cannot ignore world concerns about Hong Kong's legislature while coveting a seat at every top table in trade and security.

The international lawyers on the UN Human Rights Committee, meeting recently in Geneva, demanded that China be held to account. China's status as a permanent member of the Security Council, they said, made its plans to violate UN and Treaty obligations by

appointing the legislature a matter of concern. And not only because the declaration prescribes "elections". China has also promised that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights will continue to apply in Hong Kong, which the Human Rights Committee says requires any election to be "genuine" and based on universal suffrage.

Unwanted laws passed by the provisional legislature could be immune from later rescission; the constitutional Basic Law says LegCo Bills cannot be introduced without approval by the Chief Executive (a man also chosen by China).

But if Britain can persuade a UN body to uphold the principles of its Charter and seek an advisory opinion, there could be hope for the present legislature - and for the autonomies and freedoms now guaranteed by the Bill of Rights Ordinance and other laws.

Lobbying the UN can pay off. The World Court recently looked at two cases on the legality of nuclear weapons after lawyers and doctors lobbied the General Assembly and the World Health Organisation to seek an advisory opinion. But it needs Britain to spearhead the action. Or be party to Hong Kong's betrayal.

Divorce with a few bits missing

Mediation will soon be on offer

A couple's experience of divorce may soon be influenced by the quality of the mediation service in the area where they live. Mediation will now play a central role in the divorce process. Couples will decide whether to choose one mediator per pair, rather than a lawyer each, to guide them to their separate destinies.

This new approach is part of last year's Family Law Act, which did not have an easy birth. The Law Society withdrew its support for the Bill, and MPs' consciences led them to force the Government to make concessions. Yet the relevant provisions will not be activated for at least two years.

Legislators can now relax duty done. But other bodies have to ensure that the proposals will work in practice. Pilot projects in local areas will help to achieve this. One such body is the Legal Aid Board, and one such project deals with family mediation.

The Bill received the Royal Assent in July and by October the board had produced its draft consultation paper on proposals for a Family Mediation Pilot Project. The board, in a short time, appears to have made the best of a brouhaha which Parliament took rather longer to concoct.

The project will start in the next few weeks and continue beyond the millennium. Its primary objectives are to determine how best to subcontract quality-assured and publicly funded mediation, while assessing its relative cost/benefits - both to the taxpayer and to the couples involved - as against present legal aid arrangements.

Market forces are expected to add to the 100 or so mediation services now operating in England and Wales, and to extend their remit beyond child issues to finance and property matters.

All involved must meet the challenge of pioneering a radically different approach to divorce while the supporting parts of the 1996 Act are not in force. There will not, for example, be an opportunity to attend the vital divorce information session at which potential divorcers will - one day - have mediation explained to them.

Other reforms that may remain unimplemented during the pilot period include those relating to financial relief orders, which do not, at present, have to be resolved in advance of the divorce order. Similarly, the 18-month minimum period pencilled in for parental divorce will not apply.

A final difficulty will be the pensions issue, not only will the relevant part of the Act not be in force but also its inadequacies are so manifest that further statutory change is to be enacted. These matters will bring into sharp relief the need for legal training of the new mediators. As for the geographical areas to be used for the pilot project, the Legal Aid Board is still open to "expressions of interest". Many will see it as golden opportunity to get in on the ground floor.

CHRIS BARTON AND MARY HIBBS
The authors teach family law at Staffordshire University.

Is there equality in the profession? Frances Gibb previews the 1997 Woman Lawyer Conference sponsored by The Times

Fighting your way to the top: still a struggle

Women lawyers are making it. Half of the profession's new entrants are women; and women now make up 31 per cent of all practising solicitors - 21,000, according to new Law Society statistics. Their arrival has been swift: since 1986, the solicitors' profession has grown by 42 per cent and the number of practising women solicitors rose by 188 per cent. At the Bar, they make up almost half of each year's new entrants.

More women are taking leading roles in the profession. Heather Hallett, QC, this year's Bar vice-president, is likely to be the first woman to lead the Bar in 1998.

So should women lawyers be celebrating? The answer is mixed. Margaret McCabe, barrister and organiser of this year's Woman Lawyer Conference, agrees that women are triumphing. But their success is despite the difficulties, not because these do not exist.

Problems, she says, persist. Chief of these are pay levels for men and women. It is a myth, she contends, that women lawyers receive the same as men.

Ms McCabe says: "While discrimination may manifest itself in a number of ways - sexual harassment and stereotyping women into certain types of work - the key is securing equal remuneration."

Last autumn, hard evidence emerged from the Law Society of the discriminatory pay levels among solicitors. The survey of 580 firms (with up to 80 partners) in England and Wales found that median earnings of women assistant or associate solicitors were £21,000 a year, compared with £24,000 for men. For salaried partners, women's median earnings were £32,000 and men £37,000; and at equity partner level, women were earning £36,000 and men £51,000. Tony Girling, the society President, called the findings "sad and shameful".

The issue is at the heart of this year's Woman Lawyer Conference. Shattering Myths, on April 12, which is organised by the Bar and Law Society, Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, will look at the role of women lawyers in civil justice reform and the impact of changes on women's careers; and the profession's leaders, Mr Girling and Robert Owen, QC, the Bar Chairman, will outline their plans to improve equal opportunities. Roberta Cooper Ramo, the American Bar Association's immediate past President, will give the keynote speech.

Other highlights include two open-forum question-and-answer sessions. Among the panellists are Ms Cooper Ramo, Helena Kennedy, QC, Laura Corcoran, QC, Kamlesh Bahl, Equal Opportunities Commission chairwoman, and Judith Mayhew, Wilde Sapte's director of training.

In a departure from the conference's two previous highly successful predecessors, there will be five simultaneous workshops. Ms McCabe says: "The emphasis is on practical help, such as looking at the key stages of a woman's career. Women may take three to six months off at a critical period, and if those absences are not looked at in a constructive way, they can easily fall behind in career terms and never get back."

Innovative working patterns, recruitment policies, maternity and paternity leave are among the topics. Cherie Booth, QC, will chair a session on "mentoring", the idea of women being helped by a more senior member of the profession, and on career breaks, refresher training and selection processes. Peter Goldsmith, QC, a past Bar Council Chairman, will chair a session on strategies when things go wrong. Jane Willets, partner with Edge & Ellison, on how women - without the golf club or other male haunts - can promote themselves and their businesses; and Alex Le Clezio, director of training at Watson, Farley & Williams, will chair a session on juggling careers and child-rearing.

Many women have reached the top of the profession, say the conference organisers. The task now is to open a smooth path for the rest.

Legal successes: Helena Kennedy, QC, left, and Lesley MacDonagh, first managing partner of a big City law firm



Achievement in the Law Awards

WHAT DO Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Barbara Mills, QC, and Lesley MacDonagh have in common? They are all women "firsts": first in the Court of Appeal, first DPP and first managing partner of a big City law firm. Women are reaching these positions, but only now - such achievements are still rare enough to be newsworthy.

Today The Times launches a Woman of Achievement in the Law Award scheme, to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of women in the profession. Readers are invited to make their own nominations (by March 28, see coupon) and the winners will be announced at the Woman Lawyer Conference on April 12. There are two categories: first, for an individual, and second, for a law firm, chambers or legal department.

For the first, names being bandied about include Helena Kenne-



Question time: left, Cherie Booth, QC, and Kamlesh Bahl



dy, QC, Dame Mary Arden, Anne Rafferty, QC, and Laura Carstensen (equity partner at Slaughter & May). The women may be barristers, solicitors, judges, academics, magistrates, legal executives, barristers' clerks or administrators. For the second, law firms Fisher

Meredith, Davies Arnold Cooper and Wilde Sapte have all been mentioned for their career or equality policies. Margaret McCabe, whose idea the awards are, says: "Many women have achieved a great deal. Some in particular have done a lot

towards helping others, which is important. But the Queen Bee syndrome, by which women at the top block others, is a recurring problem. So we felt we wanted to recognise those women who had made a valuable contribution."

FIRST PRIZE: Six months' membership of Champagne's the London Club, and two first-class Eurostar tickets from London to Paris and return.

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Victims' treatment means court is no trial

Roger Dobson on pioneering therapy that helps abused children while ensuring fairness for the accused



Children who have been sexually abused suffer many psychological and physical problems. Guilt, low self-esteem, fear, mistrust and confusion, as well as many physical symptoms, including self-harm, are among the traumatic consequences.

Tackled early, with skilled therapy, many problems can be brought under control. But many traumatised children and young people are being denied access to the help they need until the end of legal proceedings. This is because of fears that therapy will prompt claims that their evidence has been contaminated.

As a result, children may have to wait up to 18 months for skilled counselling to help them to cope. This delay can cause irreparable damage. Alternatively, some prose-

cutions are dropped because the child is too traumatised to give evidence.

Allan Levy, QC, who chaired the Staffordshire pindown inquiry and is one of Britain's leading child care practitioners, believes it is time for national guidelines on how children should be treated. "In the criminal process," he says, "the child's welfare is an afterthought."

The Crown Prosecution Service, social workers and police in Cleveland are involved in a project managed by Barnardo's which does permit early intervention by a special team of therapists but governed by a tightly controlled proto-

col. In the past 18 months, eight cases were dealt with and in three, defence lawyers asked for the full log of therapy sessions, but in no case was the trial outcome affected by the therapy.

To avoid any challenge to the child's evidence, the strict protocol of the project stipulates that the young person will not take part in group therapy sessions, and will only ever be counselled one-to-one.

There is immediate and accurate recording of the sessions and a pro forma completed after each session showing the name of the therapist and the length of the session, usually one hour. The form also

confirms that the child has not been a member of a group and is signed by the therapist. The completed form is attached to the CPS case file.

During the sessions there is no direct questioning of the child about the alleged abusive experience involved in the forthcoming court case. Should a child talk about the abuse, the therapists are instructed to deal with it in an unspecific way.

Tink Palmer, the project leader, says: "The police are informed prior to our taking a referral and the CPS is consulted to see whether it has finalised its work and whether there are objections. Usually, we become involved when the case is waiting

for trial. That can be a long time."

Detailed and dated files are kept for each session but are confidential. She adds: "Our policy on the files we have is to defend them. If any files are requested, we apply for non-disclosure under public interest immunity. We have been asked for the papers on three occasions and the judge at each hearing allowed the application, selecting the papers he thought relevant. If you don't have a proper protocol, criminal proceedings can be mucked up and cases can be lost."

An eight-minute video guide for child witnesses, made by the Cleveland project, is being launched by Barnardo's today. The video, plus support material, is aimed at helping children and young people who are likely to be witnesses in court and to be giving their evidence via a video link.



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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Philippa Taffie on 0171 971 8826 or write to her at MSI Plc, 1 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GE. Email: Philippa.Delargy at MSI-UK.com.

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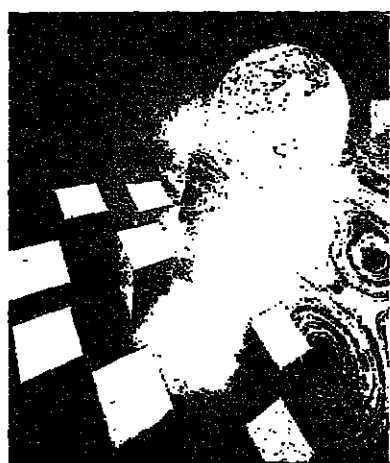
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Wimbledon hope not to change at Crewe

WALISLE

CRICKET: WHITE PRESSES CLAIM FOR ALL-ROUNDER'S ROLE IN TESTS WITH IMPRESSIVE RETURN

Atherton struggles to find firm footing

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN PALMERSTON NORTH

PALMERSTON NORTH (first day of four England XI won toss; England XI, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 32 runs behind New Zealand Select XI at Fitzherbert Park)

WITH the exception of Michael Atherton, the England team could draw immense satisfaction from their day's work as the first-class programme in New Zealand opened against a strong Select XI at Fitzherbert Park.

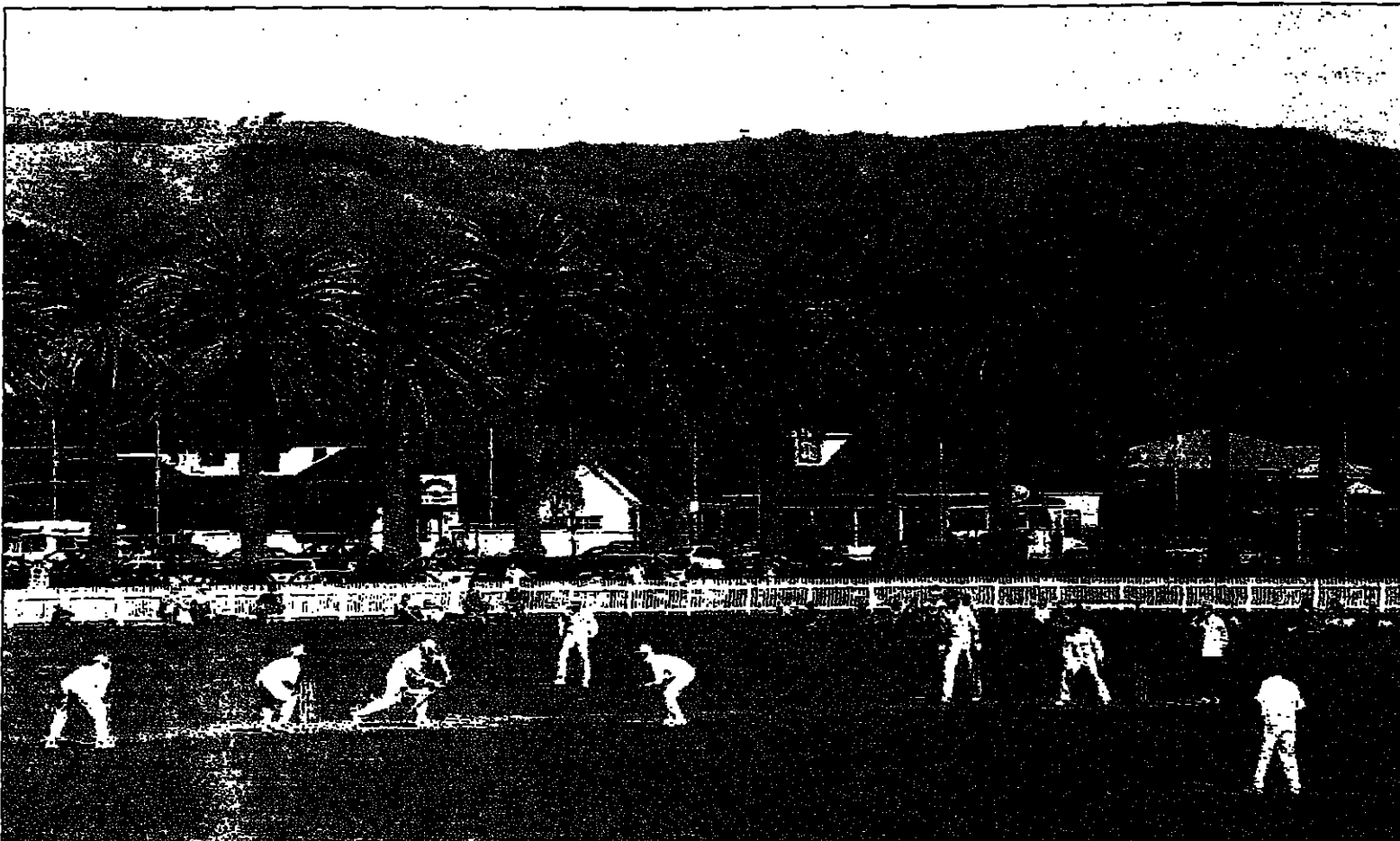
Atherton's miserable run of form continues. He was dismissed in single figures for the seventh time in 14 innings on tour and was fortunate to even get off the mark.

Batting looked a struggle for him as he encountered two of the quickest New Zealand bowlers, who were looking to attract the attention of the selectors before the first Test at Auckland. Danny Morrison has to prove his fitness after a recent groin operation and Robert Kennedy was disappointed to be overlooked for the two Tests on the recent tour to Pakistan.

The opportunities offered by a well-grassed pitch with plenty of bounce and carry were too tempting to ignore. In Morrison's lively first over, Atherton, on a night failed to get over a ball that lifted and was relieved to see it drop just short of gully. He was also twice beaten outside his off stump.

Kennedy does not possess Morrison's raw pace, but moves the ball through the air and off the seam. Although Atherton has been working hard on his footwork, it failed him again when Kennedy, 24, from Dunedin, made the ball nip back off a good length.

In the early overs of the England innings Nick Knight and Alec Stewart were also troubled, but the Select XI had little to offer after the front-line pair. Knight and Stewart have enjoyed consistent success over the past few weeks and, on a surprisingly fast outfield, they punished every loose ball



The palm trees of Fitzherbert Park provide a stunning backdrop as Stewart plays forward. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

that came their way. There were plenty from which to choose.

In 21 overs they compiled an unhurried partnership of 75 that allowed England to end the first day of only 32 runs behind the Select XI's 138 all out with seven wickets in hand — a dominant position against a side containing eight players with Test experience.

Knight, however, failed by four runs to complete a half-century. He was out glancing down the leg side when Morrison returned for a second spell. The sight of Andrew Caddick appearing as a nightwatchman with 25 minutes of the day remaining suggests that it will take several more competitive days

PALMERSTON NORTH SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND SELECT XI: First Innings	
B A Pocock c Thorpe b Caddick	16
C J Spearman b White	10
A C Parore c Atherton b Silverwood	0
M A Home c Silverwood b Cork	22
M J Gresham c Cork b White	7
S J Howell c Caddick b Cork	10
J T C Vaughan b White	24
P J Wiseman c Stewart b Silverwood	0
M J Haslam run out	0
D N Morrison c Thorpe b White	4
R J Kennedy not out	1
Extras (b 4, nb 2)	6
Total (8 wickets)	138
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-53, 3-58, 4-81, 5-83, 6-97, 7-98, 8-129, 9-137	
BOWLING: Cork 17-42-2, Caddick 16-3	

before confidence is fully restored to the England camp, but in the present climate, any success has to be savoured. England's bowling never quite matched Morrison for

speed, but showed what may be achieved through persistent accuracy backed with high class fielding.

Dominic Cork swung the new ball without achieving the

success that he deserved and, as the shine began to wear off, an opening stand of 48 between Blair Pocock and Chris Spearman looked ominous. However, Thorpe's safe hands at slip accounted for Pocock off the bowling of Caddick, and Atherton reacted with alacrity at backward point to cling to a fierce cut by Adam Parore.

The most informative England bowling performance was produced by Craig White, who is being given an extended chance to secure the regular all-rounder's place after his successes on the A team tour of Australia.

His first ball, which clearly resembled a gentle looser, was dragged on by Spearman, but it was the extra pace that his slinging action can create

that surprised Mark Greatbatch, who mistimed a back-foot drive to wide gully shortly after lunch.

With Silverwood, Cork and Caddick striking at regular intervals, the Select XI were in danger of failing to reach three figures before an awkward stand was allowed to develop between Justin Vaughan and Mark Haslam, the left-handers.

It was broken, however, when Knight's direct throw from third man ran out Haslam, and White was then recalled to tidy up the tail in emphatic fashion. Thorpe picked up a second smart clip catch and Vaughan was bowled offering no stroke to give White a return of four for 15 from nine overs.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: UNDERDOGS BOW TO REALITY AND EXPERIENCE AS GREEN BAY FINALLY RETURN TO SUPER BOWL

Packers revive memories of the Lombardi legend

BY OLIVER HOLT

SOME of the romance disappeared with the vanquished, but the majority of it survived with the victors. Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars, the underdogs, fell at the final hurdle before the Super Bowl on Sunday, but Green Bay Packers ensured that American football's showpiece event will be a festival of nostalgia when they bulldozed their way to their first appearance in it for 29 years.

For the first time, the Packers will be able to compete for the trophy named after their late, great coach,

Vince Lombardi, the prize that is awarded to the Super Bowl winners. Their only remaining obstacle is New England Patriots, who ended the Jaguars' upstart dream in the snow of Massachusetts late on Sunday. The Packers were the first to book their place in New Orleans on January 26. After a faltering start from Brett Favre, their quarterback, who was recently named the most valuable player in the National Football League (NFL) for a second successive season, they stepped up a gear and cruised past opponents who have been in existence for only 18 months, winning 30-13.

"We congratulate General Manager," said, "They beat us every way you can. There's no question they were the better team by a wide margin. If they are the benchmark, we have got a long way to go."

Despite enduring three hours in temperatures that sank well below zero, most of the crowd stayed behind after the game to hear an emotional speech from Reggie White, the Packers' fearsome defensive end. "I hope you're proud of us, Green Bay," White said to the 60,000 supporters, "because we're proud of you."

The Packers, though, are likely to

face the strongest challenge from an American Football Conference team since Los Angeles Raiders scored the conference's last victory, over Washington Redskins, in 1984. The Patriots, led by Drew Bledsoe, their richly talented quarterback, and steadied by a rock-solid defence, should at least ensure that the match is not the one-sided affair that it has fallen into in recent years.

The Patriots have appeared in the Super Bowl only once before, when they lost 46-10 to Chicago Bears in 1986, also in New Orleans, but the way that their defence shut down Mark Brunell, the league's leading

passer, on Sunday reinforced the belief that they will be a tough challenge for Favre and the Packers. Brunell had brought the Jaguars close to an equalising touchdown late in the fourth quarter before he was intercepted and New England eased away to win, 20-6. If the Patriots beat the Packers, Bill Parcells, their coach, will become the first in the NFL to take two different teams to the sport's top prize.

"We know we're the underdog," Willie McGinest, of the Patriots, said. "Everybody expects us to lose again, but we are going to go out there and show them what we can do."

SPORTS QUIZ

Winner claims six of best

MARGARET HARRIS, of Southampton, is the winner of The Times 1996 Quiz of the Sporting Year. Miss Harris will receive the first prize of six bottles of Glen Ord 12-year-old single malt whisky. The six runners-up will each receive a copy of Visions of Tennis, a collection of the work of the Allsport photographic agency. The runners-up are Anthony Lowe, of Potters Bar; Mrs J Lewis, of Eastleigh; Andrew Slack, of Chesterfield; Anne Roberts, of Romsey; Ray Grange, of Holmewood; and Angela Murphy, of Pinxton.

ANSWERS: 1. Basil O'Hara; 2. Sri Lanka (Muttiah Muralitharan); 3. France; 4. Fawcett; 5. Boris Becker; 6. Ron Pickering; 7. Mark Foster; 8. Sailing (the team that sailed the boat in the Whitbread Round the World Race); 9. Rowing (they were the first to win the World Cup); 10. Rugby (the first to win the World Cup); 11. Darts (Ladies); 12. Luther Blissett and Kenny Jackett; 13. Alberto Tomba; 14. Will Calley; 15. (a) 1972; (b) Richie Richardson; 17. (a) vault; (b) Rob Wainwright; 18. (a) Dumitrescu and Marc Holger; 20. (a) 200; (b) 100; 21. (a) 100; (b) 200; 22. (a) 100; (b) 200; 23. (a) 100; (b) 200; 24. (a) 100; (b) 200; 25. David Seaman; 26. Don Bradman; 27. (a) 100; (b) 200; 28. (a) 100; (b) 200; 29. (a) 100; (b) 200; 30. (a) 100; (b) 200; 31. (a) 100; (b) 200; 32. (a) 100; (b) 200; 33. (a) 100; (b) 200; 34. (a) 100; (b) 200; 35. (a) 100; (b) 200; 36. (a) 100; (b) 200; 37. (a) 100; (b) 200; 38. (a) 100; (b) 200; 39. (a) 100; (b) 200; 40. (a) 100; (b) 200; 41. (a) 100; (b) 200; 42. 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THE TIMES TUESDAY JANUARY 14 1997

Can somebody tell me what's going on?

The search for truth is, of course, the basis of most detective series. This is the reason why detective series are endlessly produced for telly: also why *The X-Files* can go on for ever, also why, in every episode of *EastEnders*, these days several characters demand in a loud, huffy way "What's going on, Grant?" until the repetition makes you want to scream. Somehow the request for an explanation always comes out the same way, you see. "Grant, what's going on?" "Grant, why won't you tell me what's going on?" are thrilling variations on the basic theme, of course, but can't quite satisfy the audience's hunger for fresh sentiments. An exasperated "Grant", incidentally, is now sufficient to imply "What's going on" without the words actually needing to be uttered.

Last night's fully featured two major fiction series, both sorting out the supposed what's-going-on with pleasant ease. One of these series — *McCallum* (ITV) — was traditional, and I'll deal with it first because probably a lot more people watched it. *McCallum* stars the beautiful John Hannah as a conscientious Scottish pathologist working in London. Somehow, banishing from his mind the unfortunate Amanda Burton problem (she's done the pathologist-hero series already on BBC1), Hannah does his green plastic gummy and gets delving. For him, truth is something routinely uncovered with each new cadaver delivered to his slab. Refreshingly, *McCallum* has no gimmick, save perhaps for Hannah being cool and Scottish and a heart-throb.

No, the only gimmick in *McCallum* is to disguise a perfectly straightforward and comfy whodunnit (death of Jewish baker in mysterious circle), by dressing it up with fancy city-lights photography and moody blue music to make it seem modern and edgy and challenging. A plot that is a nice mug of cocoa is presented more like gin from a paper bag. Dangerous, ugly actors are cast in quite workaday roles — Gerard Murphy, as the unremarkable police inspector, has a cloven forehead and one eye bigger than the other. Meanwhile *McCallum*'s colleague Paddy — a pathologist literally losing his grip — is played by Richard Moore, the scary man in *Band of Gold* who did *un*usefully in silk stockings. But that's not the rubber gloves and automatically half the audience faints with horror.

Over on Channel 4, at the same time as *McCallum*, we got the newly imported *Dark Skies* — a series which cunningly plucks together all the paranoid imaginings of *The X-Files*, *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, and Oliver Stone's *JFK*. It's quite a simple premise, once you think of it, and it was bound to happen. All generations rewrite history to link together the few events they now account important in their past. It's just unfortunate that in the popular American mind, the towering high point of the 20th century is nowadays the Roswell incident.

So we're off on a truth-is-out-there quest with a new spin. Preppy young John Loengard arrives in Washington DC in 1961 and uncovers a conspiracy to cover up an alien invasion! He sees a Roswell alien in a big filing cabinet. An autopsy is performed on a murderous crop-farmer, and he turns out to have a writhing, screaming "giant" living in his brain! The truth is overrated, John, warns the menacing Captain Bach, but of course it isn't. The truth is HUGE. The only niggle is the usual one: if the aliens can zap anybody they want to, why are they so selective and scheming? Why do they waste their precious alien time doodling crop circles on the countryside, infiltrating governments, and mentally torturing a harmless man like Loengard?

Dark Skies ended last night (after a slightly annoying two hours). I really should read listings more carefully, with Loengard a fugitive from Washington, armed with "the thing they fear the most" — ie, The Truth. He's got a bright blue car with fins, incidentally, also a girlfriend he rescued from the aliens in the back of her head. And there, if I'm not mistaken, is a sentence you never thought you'd read.

I got fed up with searching for the truth, to be honest. By the time *The Net* (BBC2) came on at 11.15, I was exhausted. Which was a shame, because there has rarely been a bigger challenge to the human spatial imagination than the Internet — and rarely has a better attempt to present "digital culture" more level-headedly than *The Net*. In the context of last night's viewing, however, it seemed curiously perverse. *McCallum* and *Dark Skies* stir up paranoia out of nothing, while *The Net* takes the single biggest source of alienation in the modern world, and (not wanting to worry people) celebrates it.



Lynne Truss

- BBC1**
- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (2655)
 - 7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (1) (21917)
 - 9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1) (487917)
 - 9.20am ALL OVER THE SHOP (833919)
 - 9.45am KILROY (1039443)
 - 10.30am CANT COOK, WONT COOK (73207)
 - 11.00am NEWS (1) and weather (8339795)
 - 11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (348912)
 - 11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (611462)
 - 12.00am NEWS (1) and weather (727714)
 - 12.05pm THE ALPHABET GAME (816598)
 - 12.30pm GOING FOR A SONG (481153)
 - 12.55pm THE WEATHER SHOW (2730820)
 - 1.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (24004)
 - 1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (4486714)
 - 1.40pm NEIGHBOURS (7488511)
 - 2.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (1) (8820424)
 - 2.45pm PUT IT TO THE TEST (3806443)
 - 3.10pm WEAR IT WELL (3364172)
 - 3.30pm PLAYDAYS (3365172) 3.50pm Casper Classics (2501191) 3.55pm Hubbub (1342222) 4.10pm Prince of Atlantis (1882288) 4.35pm The Mask (7895085) 5.00pm Newsworld (1) (6430379) 5.10pm The Biz (1) (1930066)
 - 5.35pm NEIGHBOURS (1) (7) (907733)
 - 6.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (511)
 - 6.30pm HOLIDAY JIL Dando goes on an all-inclusive skiing trip in France; Monty Doo travels to Sardinia; Liza Sherman tours the Derbyshire Dales by coach; and guest presenter Martin Clunes reports from the Hawaiian island of Maui (1) (1882)
 - 7.30pm EASTENDERS The residents of Walford, Arthur and Fran's, back to back, plans come to nothing (1) (375)
 - 8.00pm CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL The residents of the best of the staff at Alder Hey (1) (1) (4630)
 - 8.30pm THE DETECTIVES First in a series of one-off one-night comedy with Robert Powell and Jasper Carrott (1) (882)
 - 9.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (8917)
 - 9.30pm HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS Tonight's sketches feature Tony Boy and Wayne and Wayne's by their luck on the telly (1) (71337)
 - 9.50pm CRIMEWATCH UK Tonight's cases include a bank robbery in Dundee, Scotland, and a rape in Prestatyn in North Wales (1) (188608)
 - 10.45pm OMNIBUS: Dancing through Darkness A film portrait of the last ten years of Rudolf Nureyev's life (1) (101668)
 - 11.40pm CRIMEWATCH UK Update (1) (872578) 11.45pm Indoor Bowls Update (2884467) 12.30pm FILM: The Good Wife (72825) 2.00pm News (1844202)
 - 11.50pm FILM: The Good Wife (1987) starring Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown: A bored housewife in 1930s Australia has her life turned upside down by the arrival of a handsome stranger. Directed by Ken Cameron (225935)
 - 12.00am WEATHER (6681194)

- BBC2**
- 7.15pm SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (6133355) 7.30pm Help! It's the Hair Bear Bunch! (2672733) 7.55pm Blue Peter (2672888) 8.20pm Johnson and Friends (3008530) 8.35pm The Record (3518443) 9.00pm Daytime on Two: Standard Grade English (4874559) 9.20pm The Business Studies Collection (8837733) 9.45pm Watch (8348240) 10.00pm Playdays (83269) 10.30pm Come Outside (803801) 10.45pm Science Zone (5875191) 11.00pm Space: Afters (802288) 11.15pm The Club (3377750) 11.30pm Shakespeare: The Animated Tales - Julius Caesar (257581) 11.55pm Weather (8242462) 12.00pm See Hear! (58801) 12.30pm Working Lunch (82443) 1.00pm Teaching Today (22645) 1.30pm Showcase (4489435) 1.40pm Patch House (5132475) 2.00pm Johnson and Friends (8942430) 2.10pm Everyone's Got One: A new series exploring family life (932578) 2.45pm WALKS: Bowls
 - 3.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (8317801)
 - 3.05pm WESTMINSTER (7288849)
 - 3.55pm NEWS (1) and weather (2508004)
 - 4.00pm TODAY'S THE DAY (284) 4.30pm WALKS: Bowls (2501191) 4.55pm Hubbub (1342222) 5.00pm Father Time (1882288) 5.35pm The Mask (7895085) 5.50pm Newsworld (1) (6430379) 5.10pm The Biz (1) (1930066)
 - 5.35pm NEIGHBOURS (1) (7) (907733)
 - 6.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (511)
 - 6.30pm HOLIDAY JIL Dando goes on an all-inclusive skiing trip in France; Monty Doo travels to Sardinia; Liza Sherman tours the Derbyshire Dales by coach; and guest presenter Martin Clunes reports from the Hawaiian island of Maui (1) (1882)
 - 7.30pm EASTENDERS The residents of Walford, Arthur and Fran's, back to back, plans come to nothing (1) (375)
 - 8.00pm CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL The residents of the best of the staff at Alder Hey (1) (1) (4630)
 - 8.30pm THE DETECTIVES First in a series of one-off one-night comedy with Robert Powell and Jasper Carrott (1) (882)
 - 9.00pm NEWS (1) and weather (8917)
 - 9.30pm HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS Tonight's sketches feature Tony Boy and Wayne and Wayne's by their luck on the telly (1) (71337)
 - 9.50pm CRIMEWATCH UK Tonight's cases include a bank robbery in Dundee, Scotland, and a rape in Prestatyn in North Wales (1) (188608)
 - 10.45pm OMNIBUS: Dancing through Darkness A film portrait of the last ten years of Rudolf Nureyev's life (1) (101668)
 - 11.40pm CRIMEWATCH UK Update (1) (872578) 11.45pm Indoor Bowls Update (2884467) 12.30pm FILM: The Good Wife (72825) 2.00pm News (1844202)
 - 11.50pm FILM: The Good Wife (1987) starring Rachel Ward and Bryan Brown: A bored housewife in 1930s Australia has her life turned upside down by the arrival of a handsome stranger. Directed by Ken Cameron (225935)
 - 12.00am WEATHER (6681194)

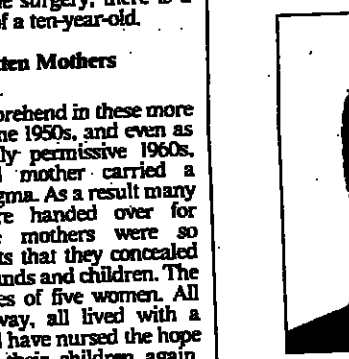
- CHOICE**
- Wings: Making Chicks Channel 4, 8.00pm
 - An eight-part series on British birds combines expertise with accessibility. It explores the behaviour of the creatures, pays tribute to the dedication of those who turn out at all times and in all weathers to watch them and offers the non-expert useful tips on where to spot birds and how to identify them. Any idea that *Wings* will turn out to be a sentimental wallow around our feathered friends is quickly dispelled. The opening programme reveals that when it comes to morality, fidelity or responsibility, some species are sadly lacking. Take the sand martin. It is nothing for males from one nest to mate with the female from another, or for the female to find another nest and dump some of her eggs in that. The cuckoo's behaviour is no better, witness the ruthless way its chicks ensure their survival.
 - Peak Practice: Eye of the Storm ITV, 9.00pm
 - Some of us felt during the last run of the medical saga that the show was beginning to run out of energy and ideas. But this was clearly a minority view. More than 12 million people continued to watch each week, making another series inevitable. So here we are back at the Beeches and even the most sceptical will have to concede that there is life in the old formula yet. Among attention-grabbing plotlines, Dr. Kate (Sheelaagh McGee) is about to meet the self-playing Dr. Wilson (Simon Shepherd) a father again, the hanging Dr. Andrew (Gary Mavers) returns from exile and wants his old job back and Adrian Lukis joins the cast as the latest in a line of impossibly good-looking GPs. Meanwhile, outside the surgery, there is a battle for the custody of a ten-year-old.
 - Network First: Forgotten Mothers ITV, 10.40pm
 - It may be hard to comprehend in these more tolerant times but in the 1950s, and even as late as the supposedly permissive 1960s, being an unmarried mother carried a considerable social stigma. As a result, many of the children were housed away from their mothers, and some mothers were so ashamed of their past that they concealed them from later husbands and children. The film carries the stories of five women. All gave their babies away, all lived with a feeling of guilt and all have nursed the hope that they would see their children again. Their testimonies are moving, painful and delivered with transparent honesty. Some of the stories have a happy ending but the film also proves that tracking down a child after a long separation is no guarantee that a joyful reunion will follow.
 - OmniBus: Rudolf Nureyev - Dancing Through Darkness BBC1, 10.45pm (Scotland: Thursday, 11.15pm)
 - In 1983 Rudolf Nureyev was appointed artistic director of the Paris Opera Ballet and set about realising a hidebound institution. Soon afterwards he was diagnosed as HIV-positive and he was seen fighting to sustain his passion for dance against the increasing ravages of the AIDS virus. When conservative forces in Paris finally ousted him, he toured America in *The King and I* and returned to the Kirov in St Petersburg for the first time since his defection in the 1960s. He was too ill to mount one to his part. The most powerful image in the film is of Nureyev, dressed in a simple, distressingly haggard and barely able to speak, taking his leave of the first-night audience. Three months later he was dead.

- HTV**
- 5.00pm GMTV (1799917)
 - 9.25pm WILSON, LOSE OR DRAW (8814882)
 - 9.55pm REGIONAL NEWS (6624207)
 - 10.00pm THE TIME, THE PLACE (70795)
 - 10.30pm THIS MORNING (83277191)
 - 12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (7923998)
 - 12.30pm NEWS (1) and weather (4826849)
 - 12.55pm SHORTLAND STREET (4894240) 1.25pm Home and Away (1) (8022240) 1.50pm Afternoon Live (7483443) 2.20pm Vanessa (1) (23649153) 2.50pm Afternoon Live (9361998)
 - 3.20pm NEWS (6324191)
 - 3.25pm REGIONAL NEWS (6323462)
 - 3.30pm POTAMUS PARK (8297153) 3.40pm Wizard (1447714) 3.50pm Rupert (3892356) 4.15pm Hey Arnold! (1673627) 4.40pm Are You Afraid of the Dark? (4375676)
 - 5.10pm YAN CAN COOK: THE BEST OF CHINA (8059882)
 - 5.40pm NEWS (1) and weather (140511)
 - 6.00pm HOME AND AWAY (1) (131646)
 - 6.25pm HTV NEWS (1) (275443)
 - 7.00pm EMERGENCY Chris makes a proposal to Kim (1) (6578)
 - 7.30pm GREAT WESTERN WOMEN A profile on the Marchioness of Worcester, formerly actress Tracy Wiles (1) (443)
 - 8.00pm THE BILL: Professional Opinion Day and Sides investigate the death of a man whose mother is a drug addict (1) (2998)
 - 8.30pm PET POWER In the first of a new series, Andrea Turner meets a Labrador which rescued a drowning toddler, a parrot caught in a love triangle and a dog that helps around the house (1) (473)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm A COUNTRY PRACTICE (4894240)
 - 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (8059882)
 - 6.25-7.00pm CENTRAL NEWS (275443)
 - 7.30-8.00pm HEART OF THE COUNTRY (443)
 - 12.40pm COLLINS AND MACOMBE'S MOVIE CLUB (4975573)
 - 1.15pm FILM: MAID TO ORDER (575573)
 - 2.55pm IN FOCUS (981689)
 - 3.40pm FOOTBALL EXTRA (2985863)
 - 4.20pm CENTRAL JOBBING '97 (1274028)
 - 5.20pm ASIAN EYE (5453196)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.20pm-12.30pm ILLUMINATIONS (7923998)
 - 12.55-1.25pm WISH YOU WERE HERE? (4894240)
 - 5.10-5.40pm HOME AND AWAY (8059882)
 - 6.00-7.00pm WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (42488)
 - 7.30-8.00pm WILD WEST COUNTRY (443)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:
 - 1.00-1.25pm SHORTLAND STREET (1307379)
 - 5.10-5.40pm HOME AND AWAY (8059882)
 - 6.00pm MERIDIAN TONIGHT (207)
 - 6.30-7.00pm SURPRISE CHEFS (559)
 - 7.30-8.00pm OUT OF TOWN (443)
 - 11.40pm PRISONER: CELL BLOCK H (837714)
 - 5.00pm FREESCREEN (90573)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.19pm ANGLIA AIR WATCH (7935733)
 - 12.55-1.25pm CROSSWITS (4894240)
 - 5.10-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (8059882)
 - 6.25-7.00pm ANGLIA NEWS (275443)
 - 7.30-8.00pm OUT TO LUNCH WITH BRIAN TURNER (443)
 - 11.40pm SWIFT JUSTICE (937714)
- S4C**
- Starts: 6.00pm SESAME STREET (19269)
 - 7.00pm THE BIG BREAKFAST (14827)
 - 9.00pm BEWITCHED (60733)
 - 9.30pm YSGOLION (669443)
 - 12.00pm HOUSE TO HOUSE (57269)
 - 12.30pm HERE'S ONE I MADE EARLIER (77511)
 - 1.00pm SLOTT MEITHRIN (17714)
 - 1.30pm FILM: THE LOVE LOTTERY (8288627)
 - 3.05pm FRESH POP (6662578)
 - 3.15pm MONTELL WILLIAMS (3242801)
 - 4.00pm FIFTEEN-TO-ONE (172)
 - 4.30pm TV DINNERS (358)
 - 5.00pm 5 PUMP (4356)
 - 5.30pm COUNTDOWN (608)
 - 6.00pm NEWYDOW (116462)
 - 6.05pm HENO (119424)
 - 6.35pm GAIM AIR AUR (487482)
 - 7.00pm POBOL Y CWYM (878085)
 - 7.25pm PADDY (3240)
 - 8.00pm PACIO (3240)
 - 8.30pm NEWYDOW (2375)
 - 9.00pm MARRIED A GREAT TRAIN ROBBER (8801)
 - 10.00pm BROOKSIDE (551988)
 - 10.35pm DARK SKIES: THE AWAKENING (44607849)
 - 12.25pm-1.25pm HOMICIDE: LIFE ON THE STREET (237912)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00pm SESAME STREET (19269) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (14827) 9.00pm Bewitched (60733) 9.30pm Schools (669443) 12.00pm House to House (57269) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (77511) 1.00pm Crawshaw Points Consistent Country (17714) 1.30pm No Offence (4493004)
 - 1.45pm FILM: Bonjour Tristesse (1957, colour and b/w) starring David Niven, Deborah Kerr and Jean Seberg A malicious teenager tries to end her widowed father's affair with an old flame. Directed by Otto Preminger (8391068)
 - 3.30pm COLLECTORS' LOT (1) (337) 4.00pm Fifties To One (172) 4.30pm Countdown (358) 5.00pm Ricki Lake (1) (8382646) 5.45pm Food File (1) (242627)
 - 6.00pm BABYLON 5 (1) (7) (47498)
 - 6.50pm FRESH POP featuring the Outthere Brothers (986820)
 - 7.00pm CHANNEL 4 NEWS (1) (494801)
 - 7.55pm THE SLOT (30720)

- Twitchee Mike Hansell (8.00pm)**
- 8.00pm WINGS: Making Chicks The first of an eight-part series on British birds and the extraordinary lengths some birdwatchers will go to in pursuit of their hobby. Tonight's programme features sand martins, cuckoos and long-tailed tits (1) (3240)
 - 8.30pm BROOKSIDE Mike tries to smooth things over with Lindsey and Leo plays cupid (1) (2375)
 - 9.00pm MARRIED A GREAT TRAIN ROBBER The Great Train Robbery through the eyes of Chameleon, Ronnie Biggs's first wife (1) (8801)
 - 10.00pm FILM: Entwined — A Story of Three Women (1994) starring Swoselle Kurtz, Clare Carey and Meredith Baxter A mother's world falls apart when she discovers her daughter in bed with her best friend's husband. Directed by William Graham (1) (88375)
 - 11.40pm FILM: NIGHT A new movie magazine (1) (101) (627085)
 - 12.15pm FILM: The Adjuster (1991) starring Elias Koteas A black comedy about an insurance adjuster whose client relations ships are more than just professional. Directed by Atom Egoyan (513308)
 - 2.10pm FILM: Calendar (1993) starring Arsenie Krihanian A Canadian photographer is hired to produce a tourist calendar of Armenian churches. Directed by Atom Egoyan. In English and Armenian with English subtitles (513308)
 - 3.25pm THE SUDDEN WALK Andrew Curie's voyeuristic exploration of human isolation as a man retreats into his own private universe (1) (6210486)
 - 3.50pm GREENIDIE Steven Wendland's story about a young boy waiting for his birthday (1) (1158303)
 - 4.00pm SCHOOLS: Places and People (1) (84318)
 - 5.00pm ALIEN NATIONS Turkish immigrants in Germany (1) (1) (88115)
 - 5.30pm BACKDATE (1) (1) (6681711)



New boy Adrian Lukis (9.00pm)



Twitchee Mike Hansell (8.00pm)

- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode**
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a programme you want to watch. VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.
- SKY 1**
- 6.00pm The Morning Mail (842827) 8.00pm Desperate Housewives (842827) 9.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 10.00pm Another World (842827) 11.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 12.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 1.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 2.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 3.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 4.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 5.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 6.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 7.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 8.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 9.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 10.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 11.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 12.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 1.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 2.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 3.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 4.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 5.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 6.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 7.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 8.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 9.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 10.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 11.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 12.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 1.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 2.00pm The 11th Hour (842827) 3.00pm The 11th 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